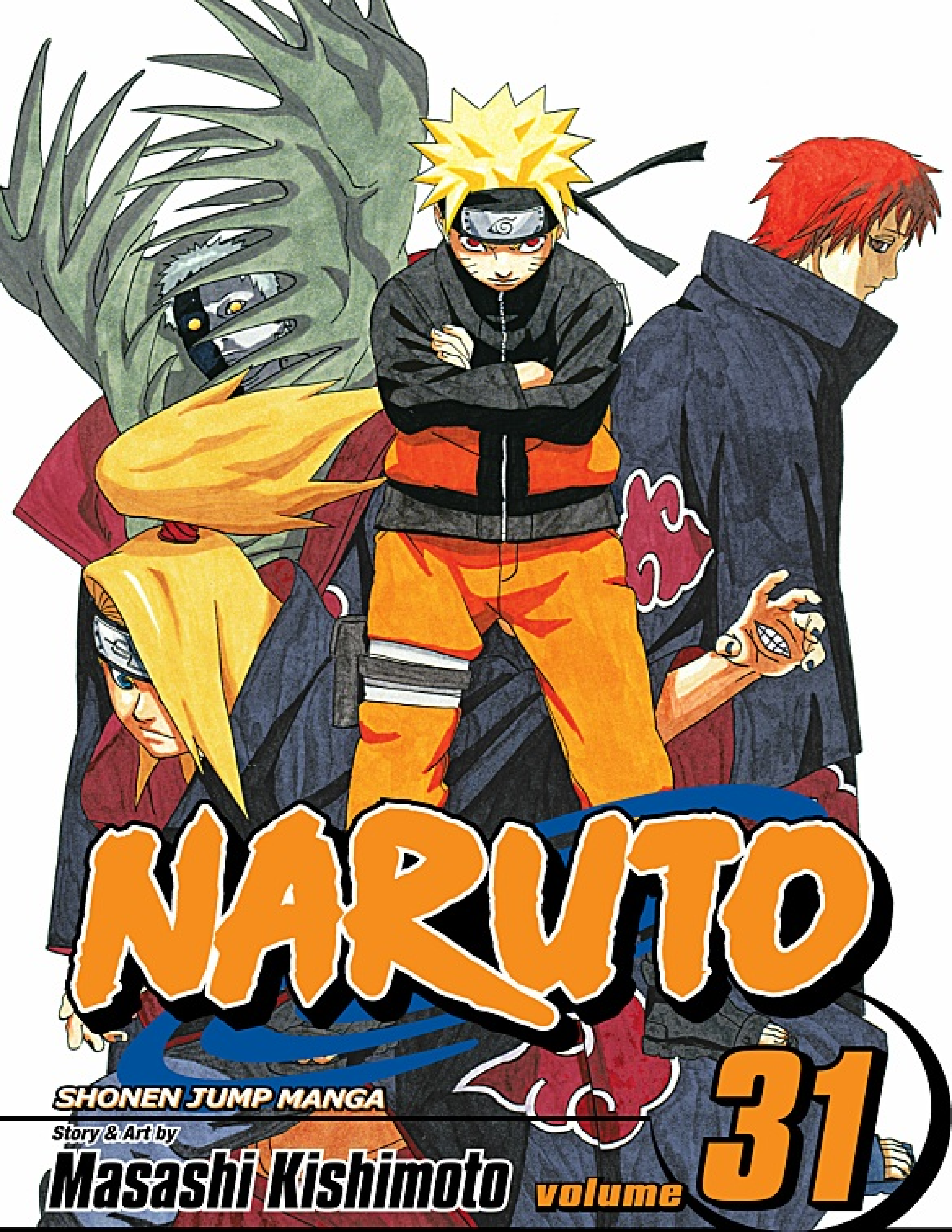
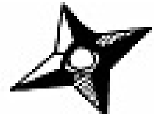
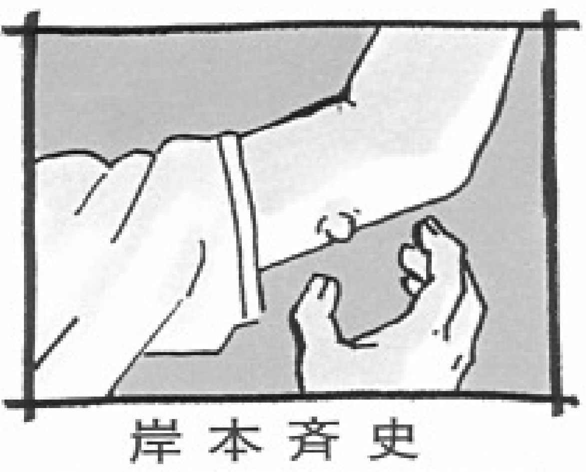
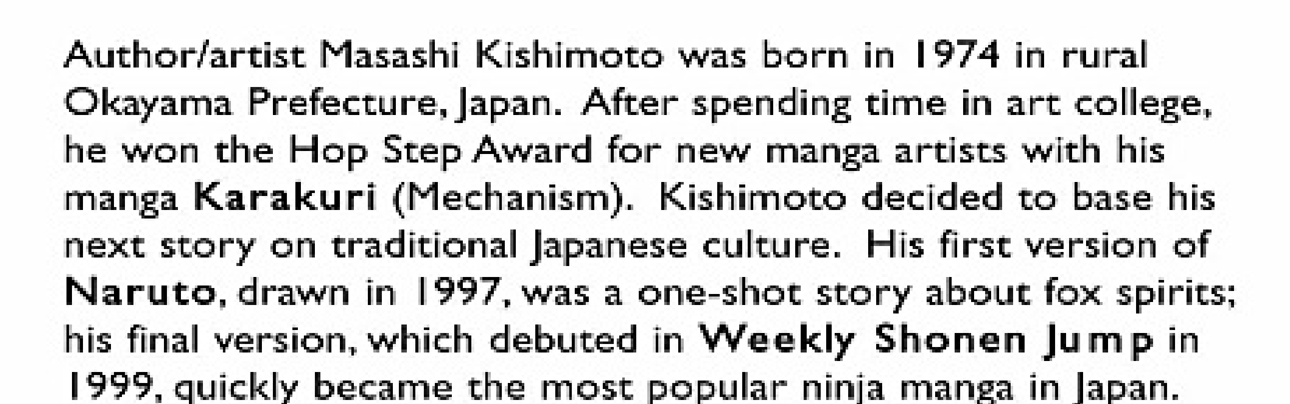

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 31





Recently I carelessly plucked a wart off of my upper arm. Gouging it out left that part of my skin damaged with a depression in it. The whole thing left me with a different kind of depression.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2005



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 31
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #67-68. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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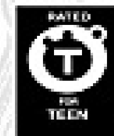
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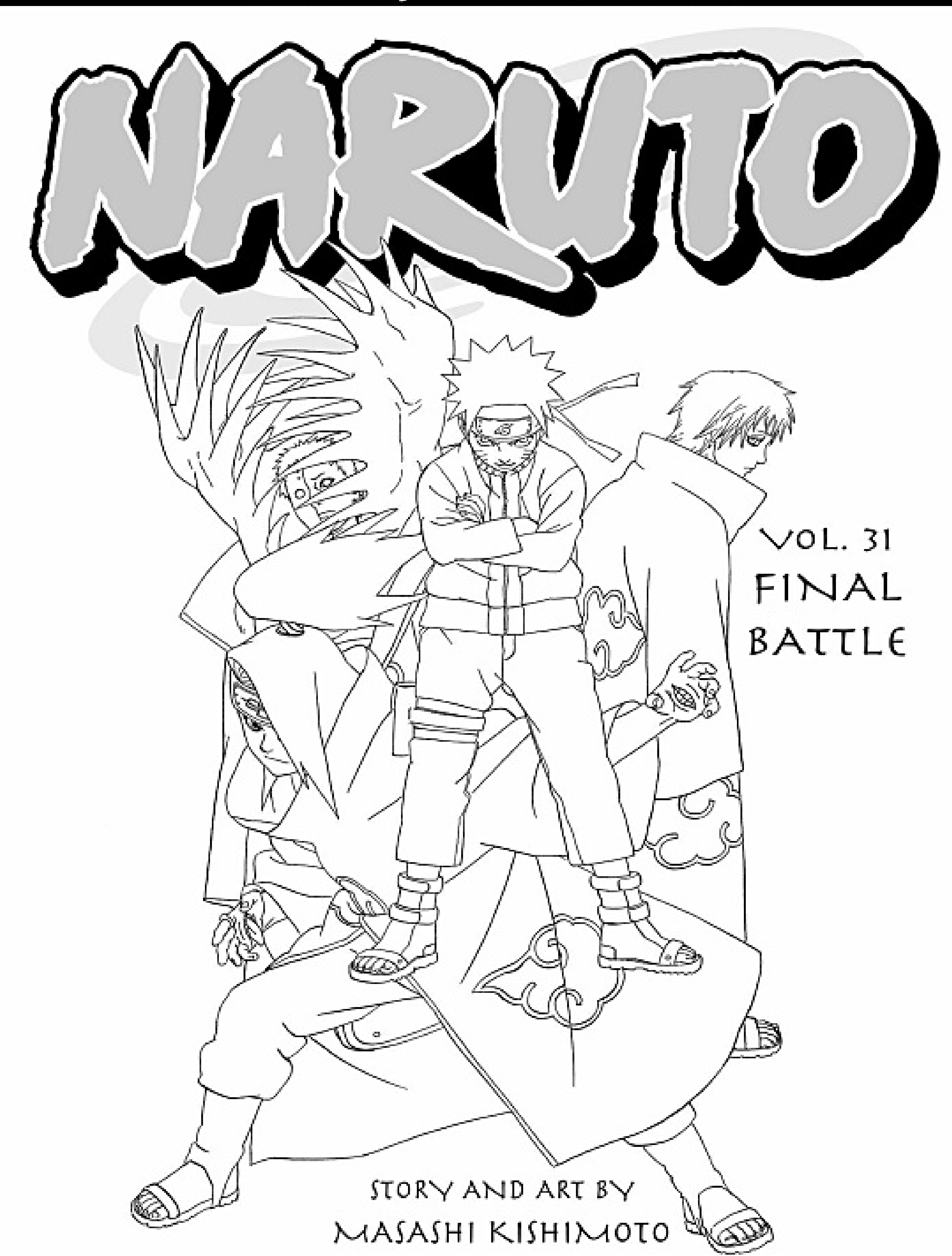




PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION



NARUTO

VOL. 31
FINAL BATTLE

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO











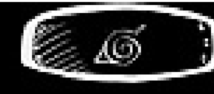


The Story So Far...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates, Sasuke and Sakura. During the Chûnin Selection Exams, Orochimaru and his henchmen launch *Operation Destroy Konoha*. Naruto's mentor, the Third Hokage, sacrifices his own life to stop the attack, and Tsunade becomes the Fifth Hokage. Lured by Orochimaru, Sasuke leaves Konohagakure. Naruto fights valiantly against Sasuke, but cannot stop his friend from following the path of darkness...

Two years pass, and Naruto and his comrades grow up and undergo separate training programs, until Gaara falls into the hands of the Akatsuki. Naruto charges into the enemy's lair to rescue Gaara, but Deidara stops him. Sakura and Granny Chiyo remain in the cave locked in battle with Sasori!!


CHARACTERS
Sakura
サクラ
Naruto
ナルト
チヨ
Granny Chiyo
Gaara
我愛羅
Kakashi
カカシ
Itachi
イタチ



NARUTO

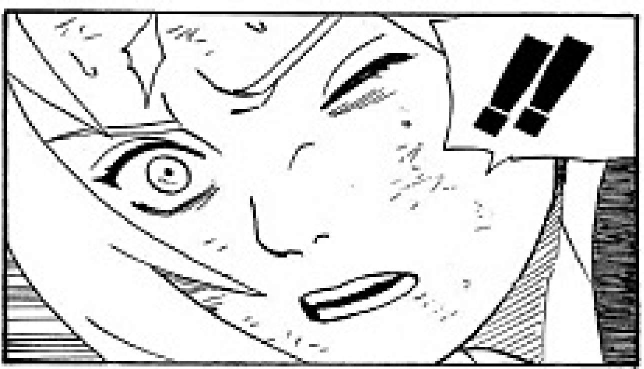
VOL. 31
FINAL BATTLE

CONTENTS




Number 272:
Granny Chiyo vs. Sasori...!!

KASHAK







!

WHUPWHUPWHUP

SKRA

FUP

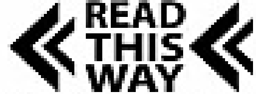
HMPH...

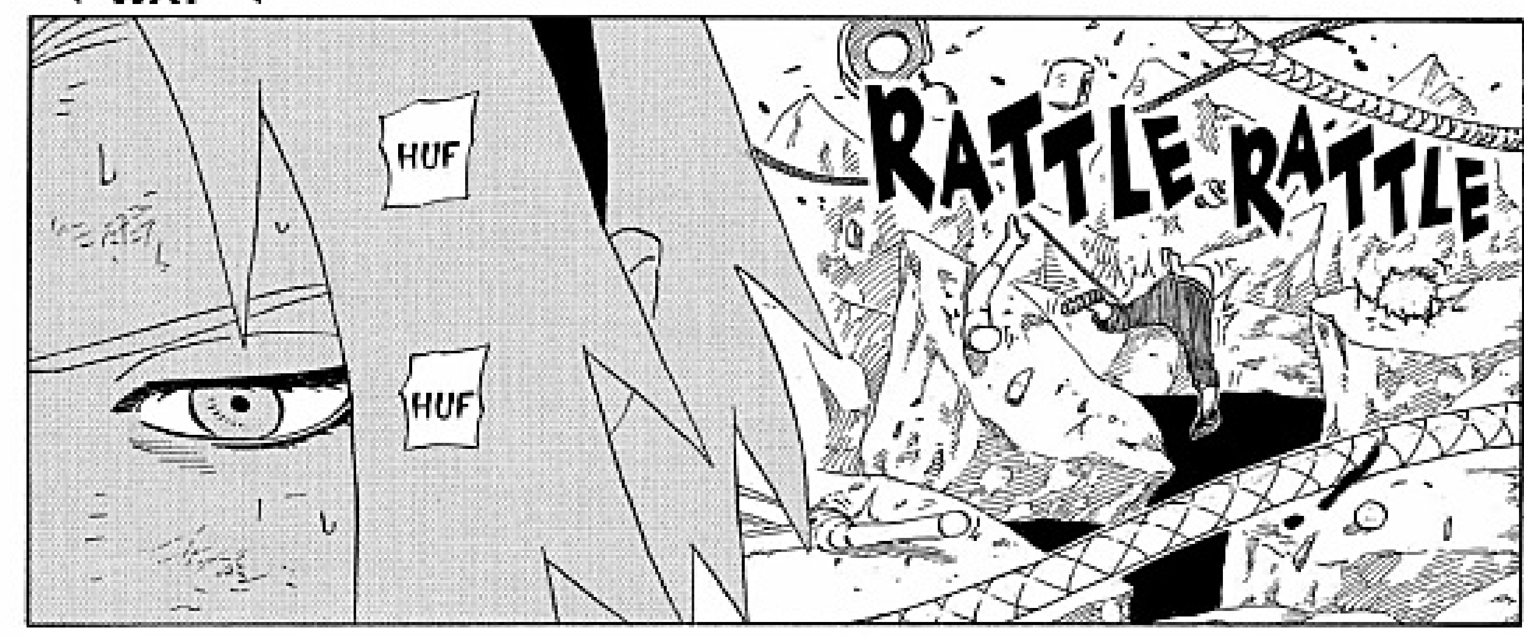
WHUPWHUPWHUP

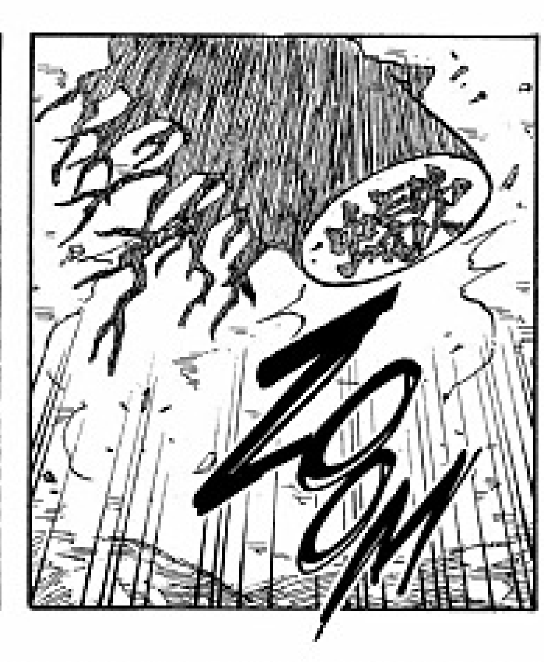

SCREECH
!
KLAK
SAKURA?!
UNH!


CHUNK
TAKE THIS!
!


THOK


READ
THIS
WAY


RATTLE RATTLE
HUF
HUF

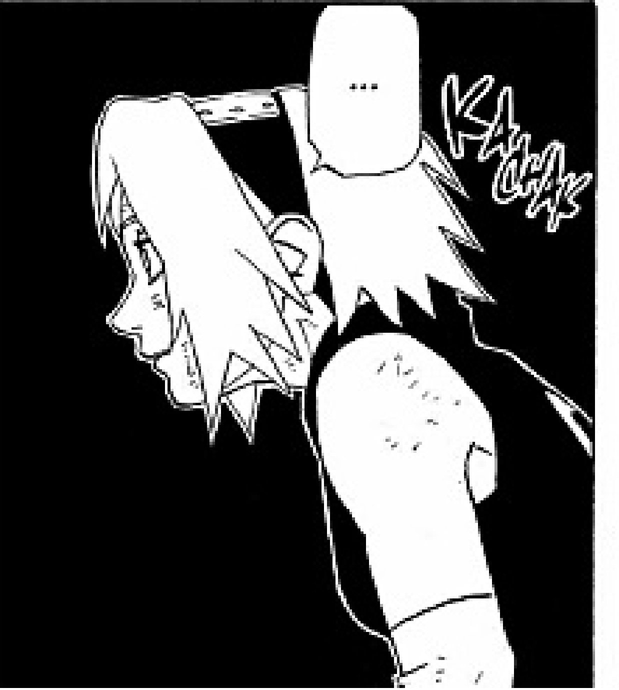


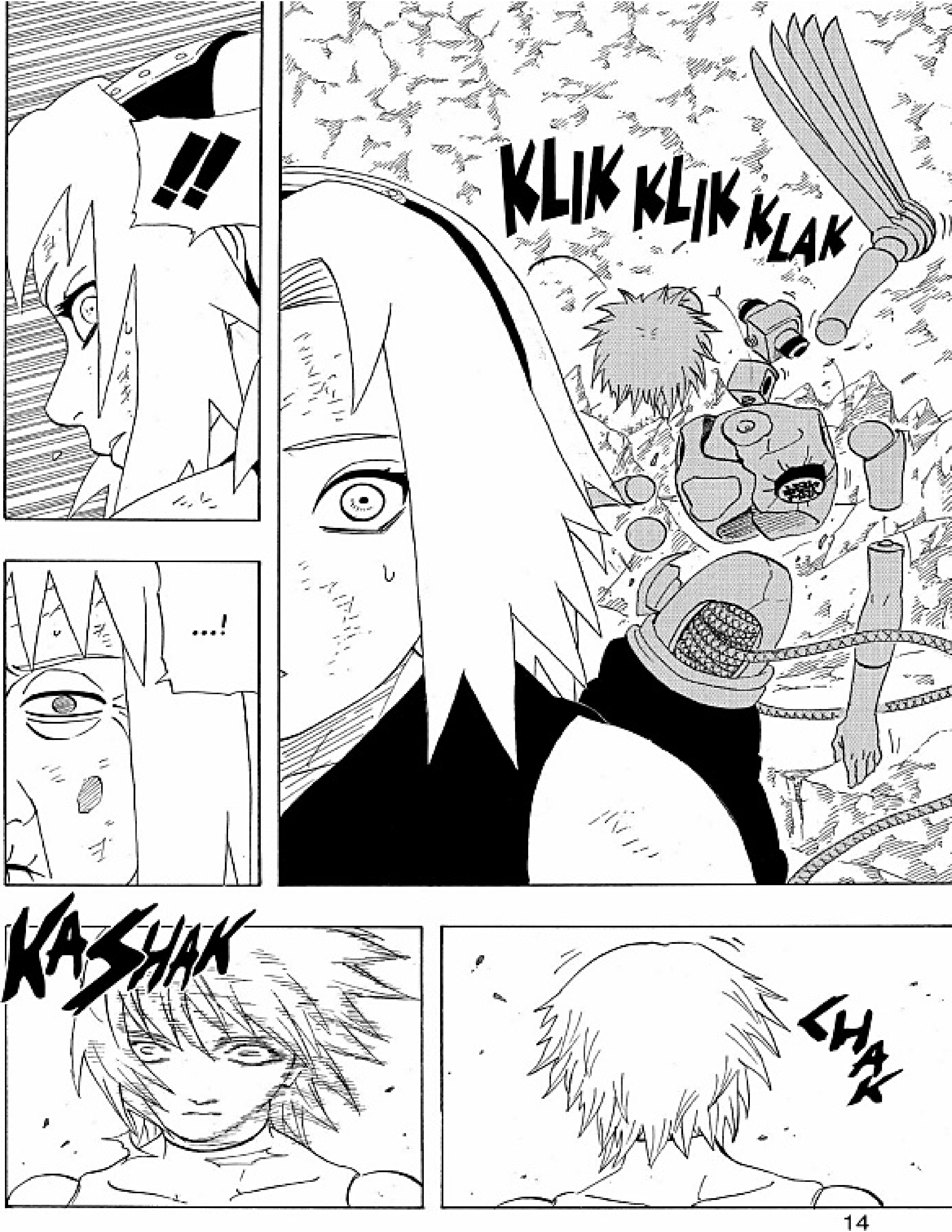

I BEAT HIM... WITH BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO SPARE...
HUF
HUF



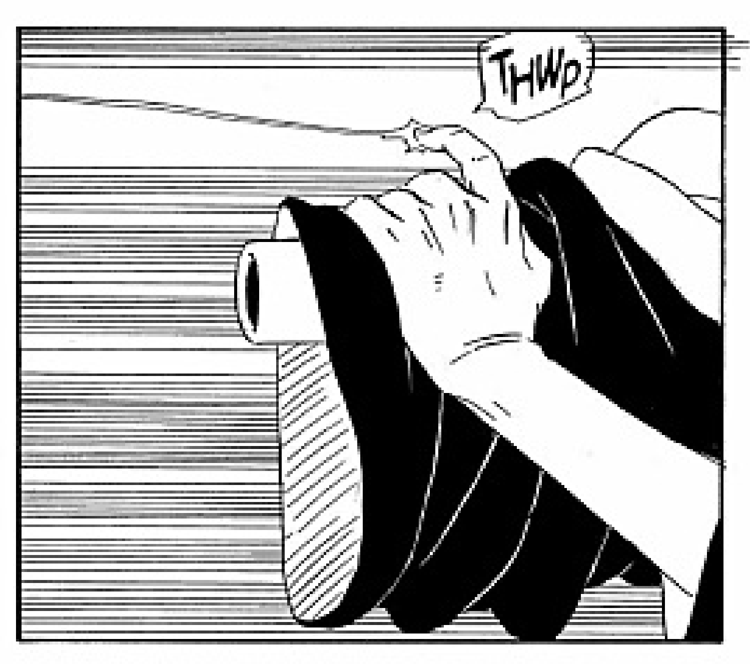

HA HA...
I DID IT... GRANNY CHIYO, I DID IT!

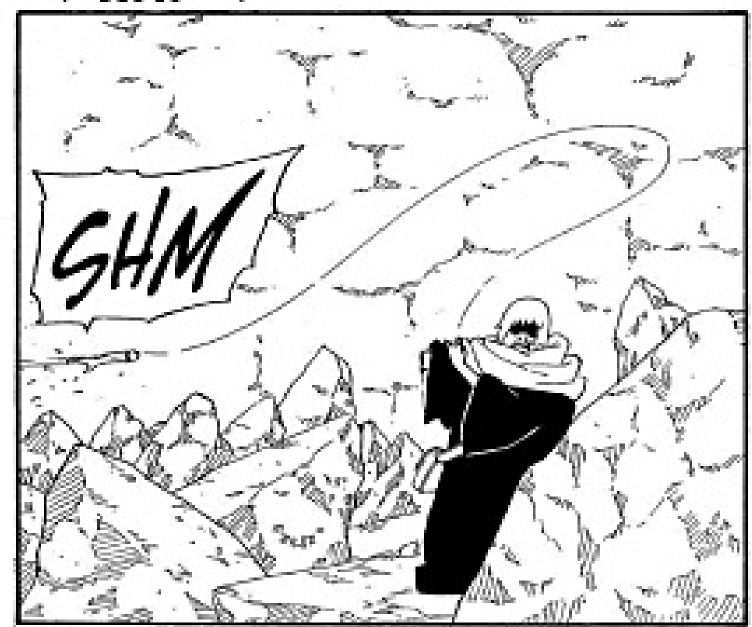

SAKURA... YOU...


...

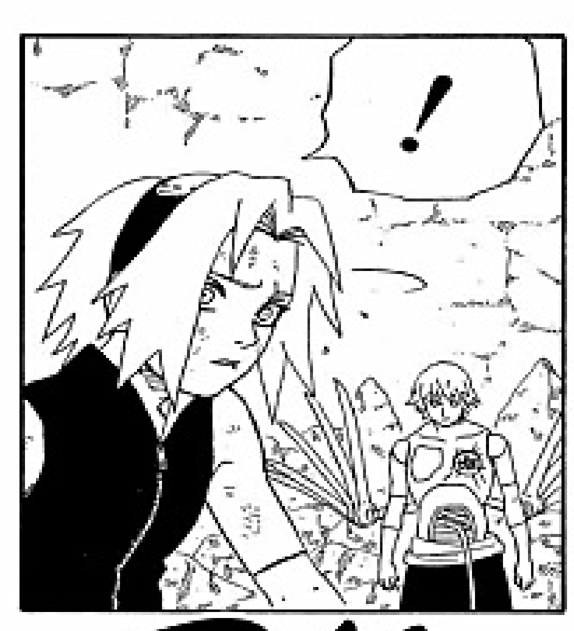

!!
KLIK KLIK KLAK
...!
KASHAK
CHAK

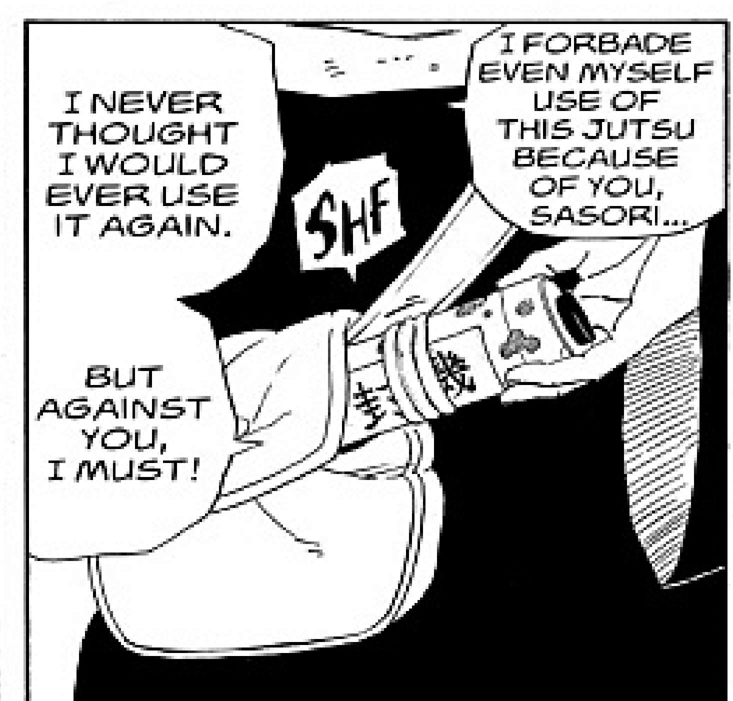

READ
THIS
WAY


THWP


SHM


KACHAK


!

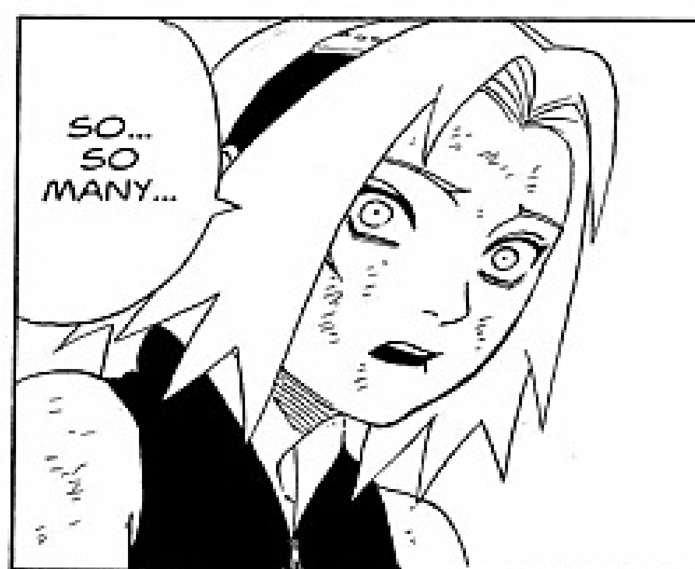

I FORBADE EVEN MYSELF USE OF THIS JUTSU BECAUSE OF YOU, SASORI...
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER USE IT AGAIN.
SHF
BUT AGAINST YOU, I MUST!

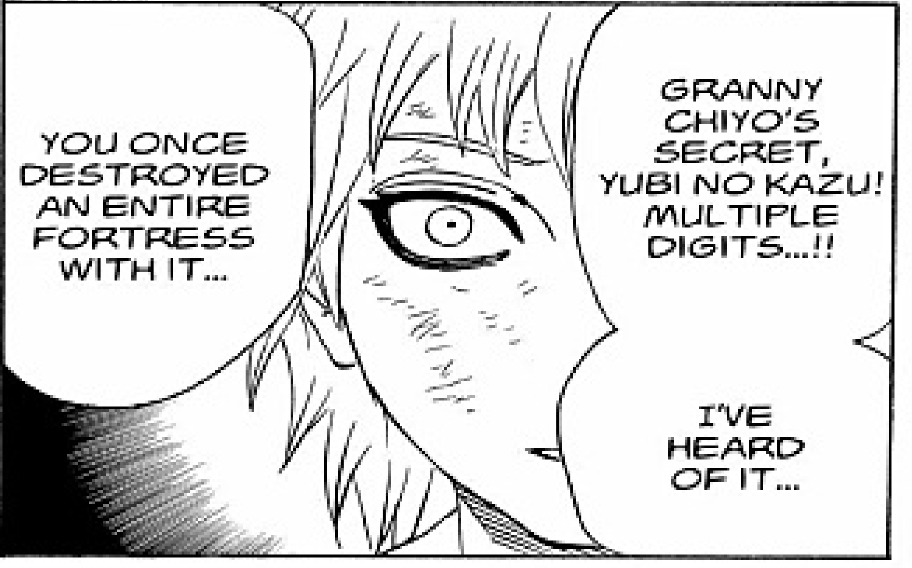

FWAP


...
FWOO
SHUU


SHF
LET'S END THIS HERE AND NOW...





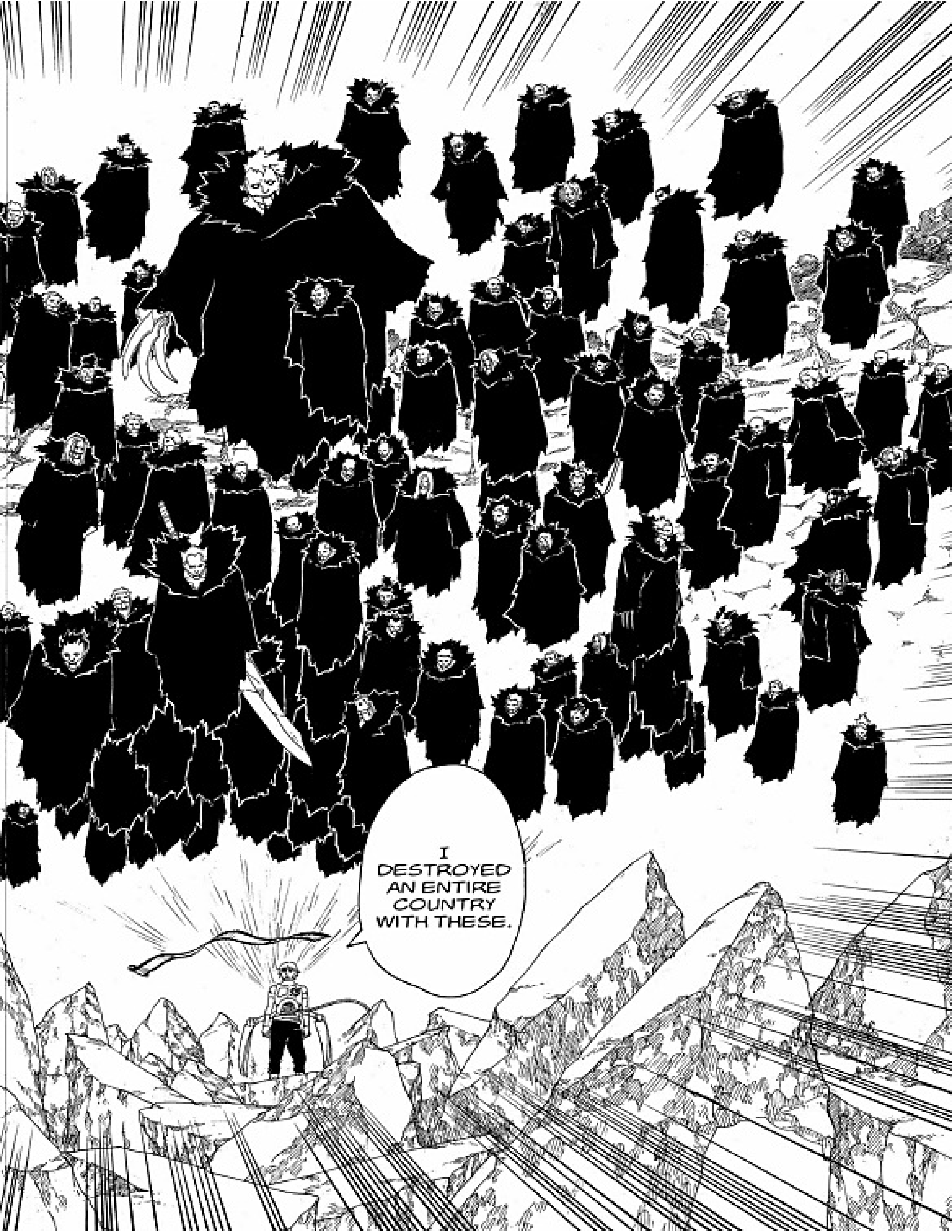


SECRET WHITE MOVE! CHIKAMATSU'S TEN PUPPETS!!

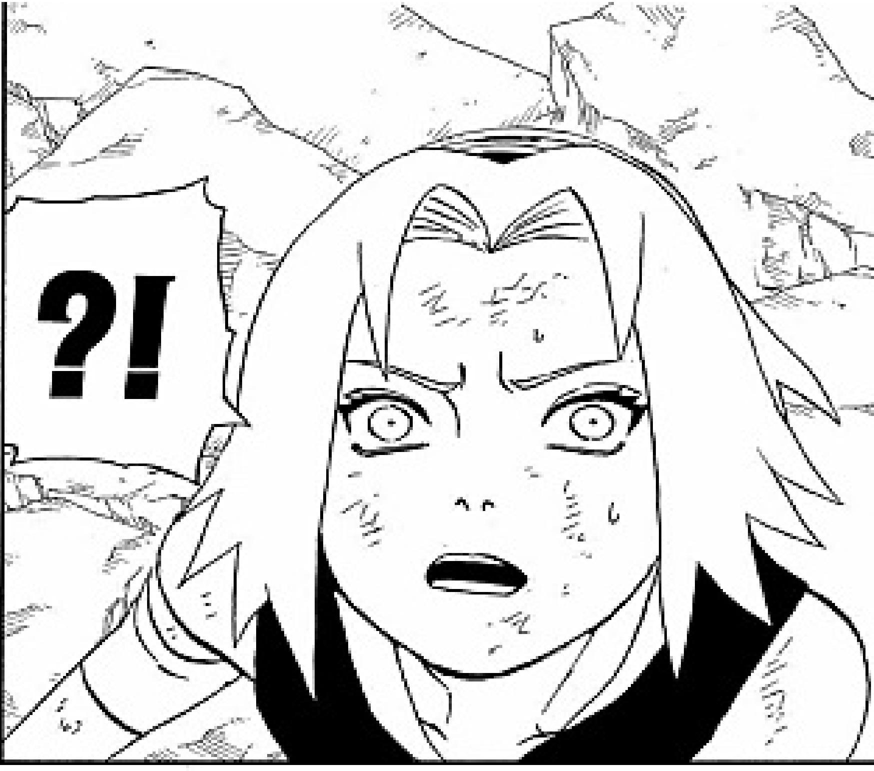

READ THIS WAY

THE FIRST PUPPET MASTER...
...MONZAEMON'S TEN MASTER-PIECES.
SPAK
FWAP
CHAK
BUT...
YOUR COLLECTION IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE...
KLAK
FWOOSH
FWAA


ONNNG


I DESTROYED AN ENTIRE COUNTRY WITH THESE.

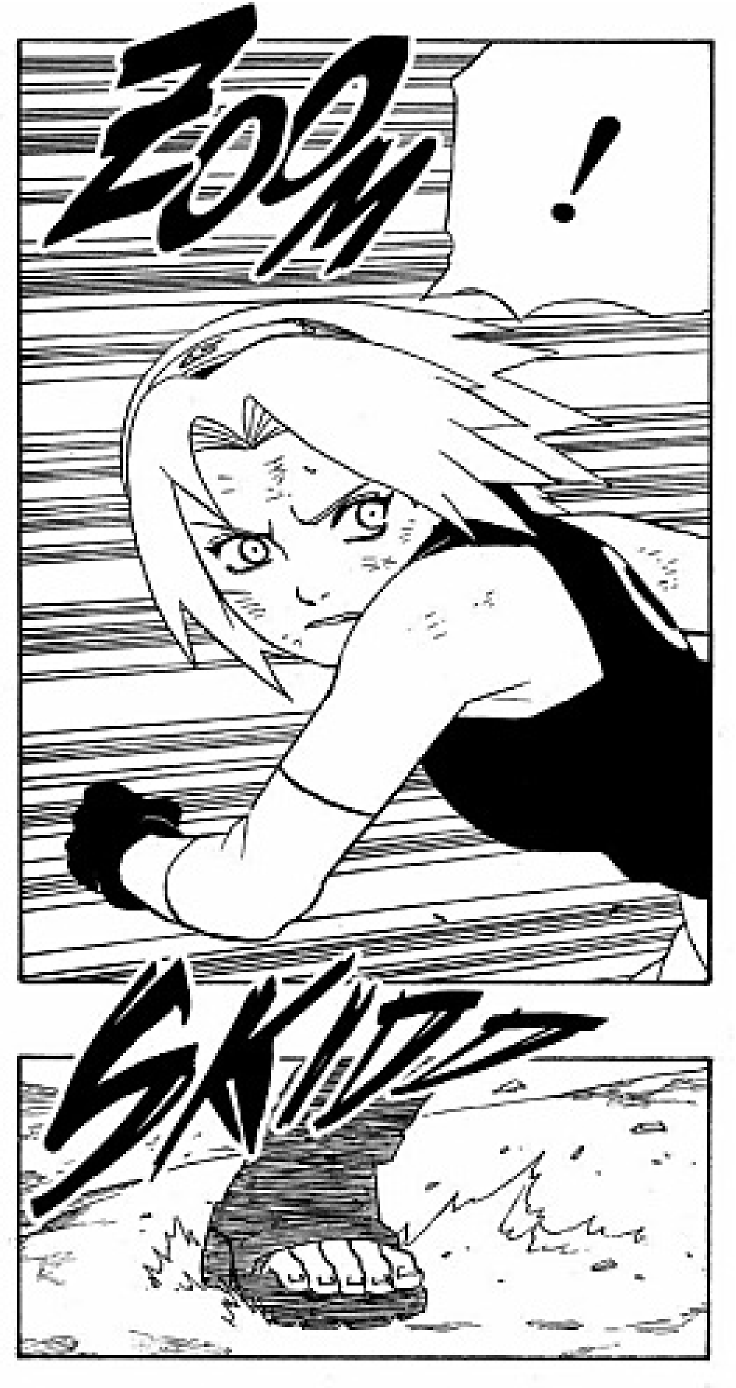

...
HE'S DEVELOPED ...SO MUCH...!


?!

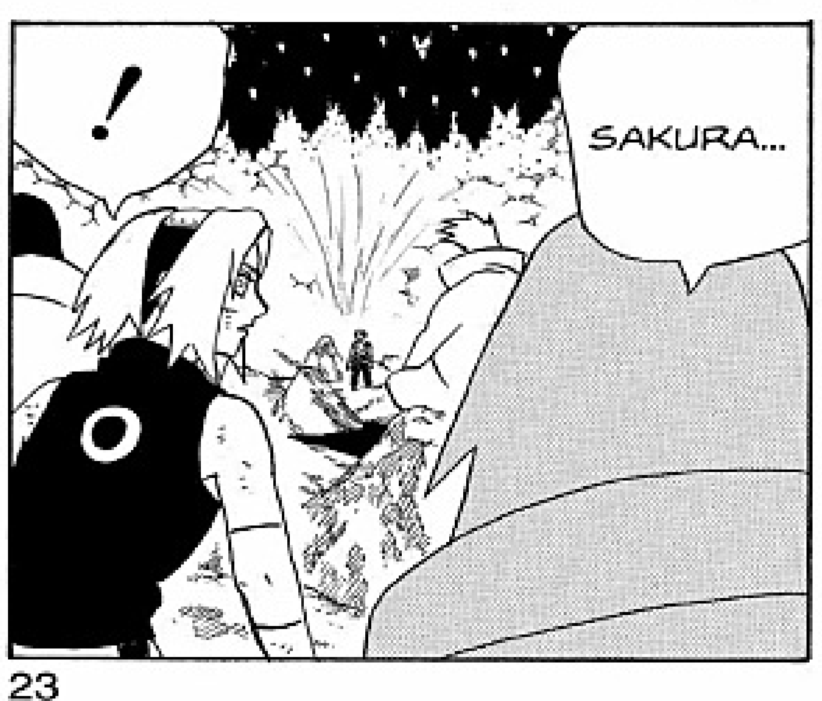

THIS IS DISAP-POINTING...
I'M WASTING MY TIME WITH THIS LITTLE GIRL AND OLD HAG...
AND HAVING TO RESORT TO MY BEST PUPPETS...




SECRET RED TECHNIQUE! PERFORMANCE OF A HUNDRED PUPPETS...!!
IT'S SHOW TIME.


ZOOM
!
SKID

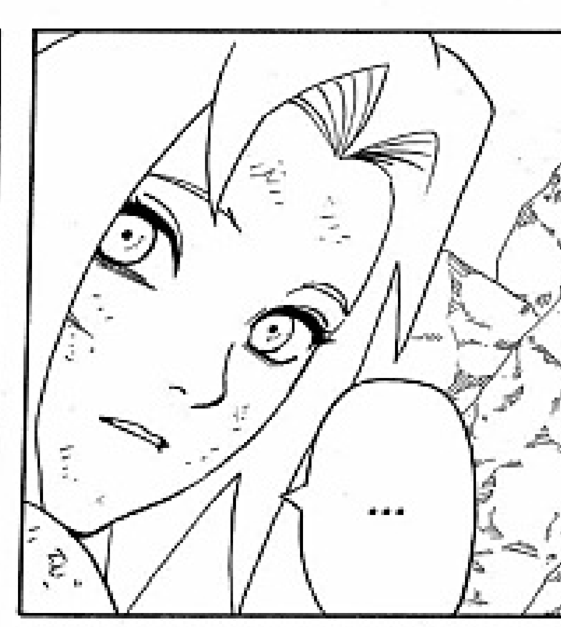

...


SAKURA...
!

YOUR ANTIDOTE HAS WORN OFF... STAY BACK.



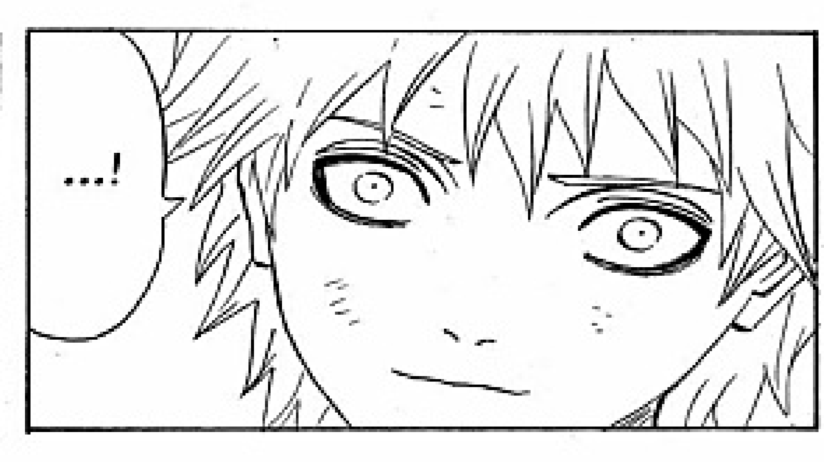


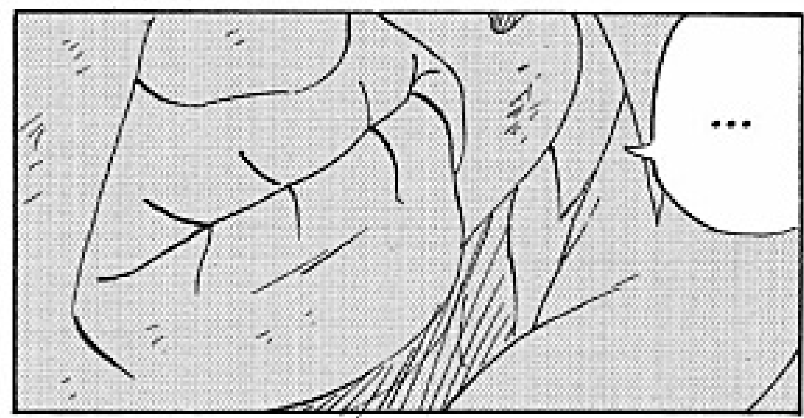














NOW COMES THE FINALE.

READY?

YEAH!


NARUTO



Number 273: Final Battle...!!


HERE THEY COME!
FWOOSH


FW'P
KLAK
CHAK
CLICK
VVVMN


VWMM
ZOOM
K
SPLEK
HAG
SHAK SHAK SHAK


THUD
KA
THP THP
SS SHAK



TAK
TAK
CHAK
仏
(Butsu: Buddha)
CHAK
法
(Pou: Dharma)
CHAK
僧
(Sou: Monk)
SANPO KYUKAI! THREE TREA-SURES VACUUM!!


THO
OOM
SQUELCH
!
THERE'RE TOO MANY OF THEM!!

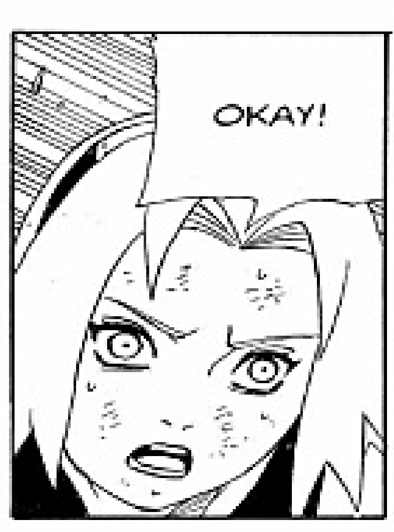


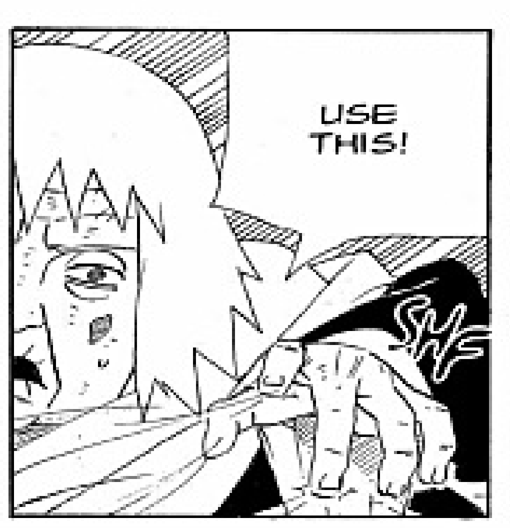
BOOM
HUF
HUF
KLAK
KLAK
SHF
BAM
Fwip
SKF


ONLY ONE ANTIDOTE LEFT... IF EITHER OF US TAKES DAMAGE WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
OOF!
SLASH
!!
...
OH NO...!
FUP
WHOOSH
KREE
!
GRANNY CHIYO!!

BAM







ZOOM
POMG
!



SPAK

ZOOM

ZOOM

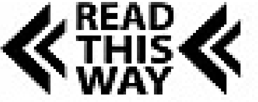
WHOOSH

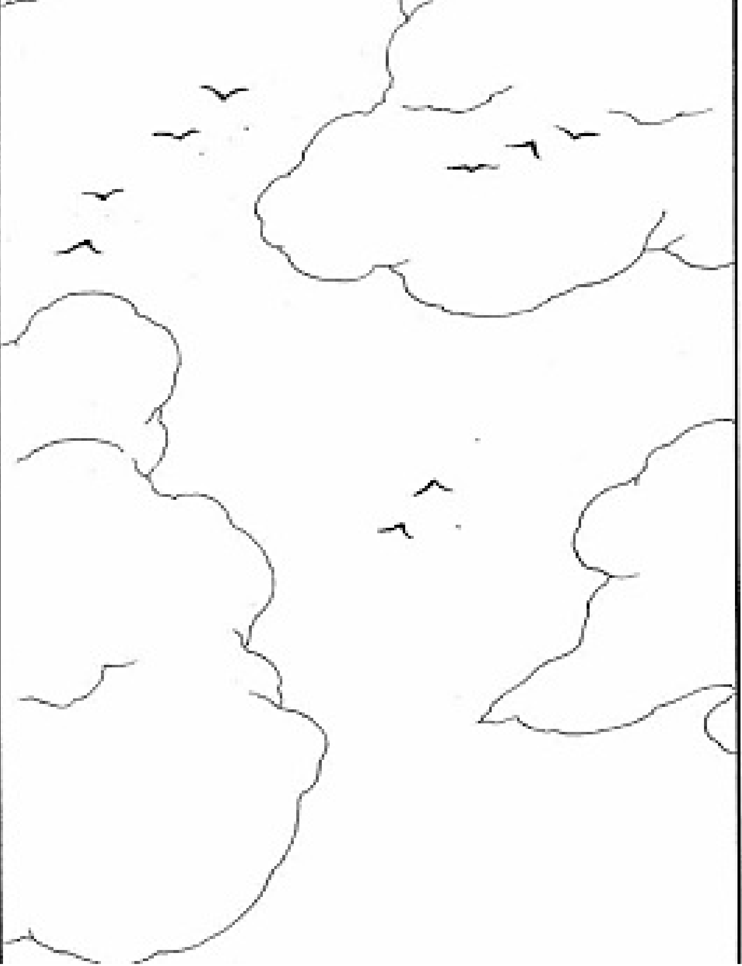
SLASH

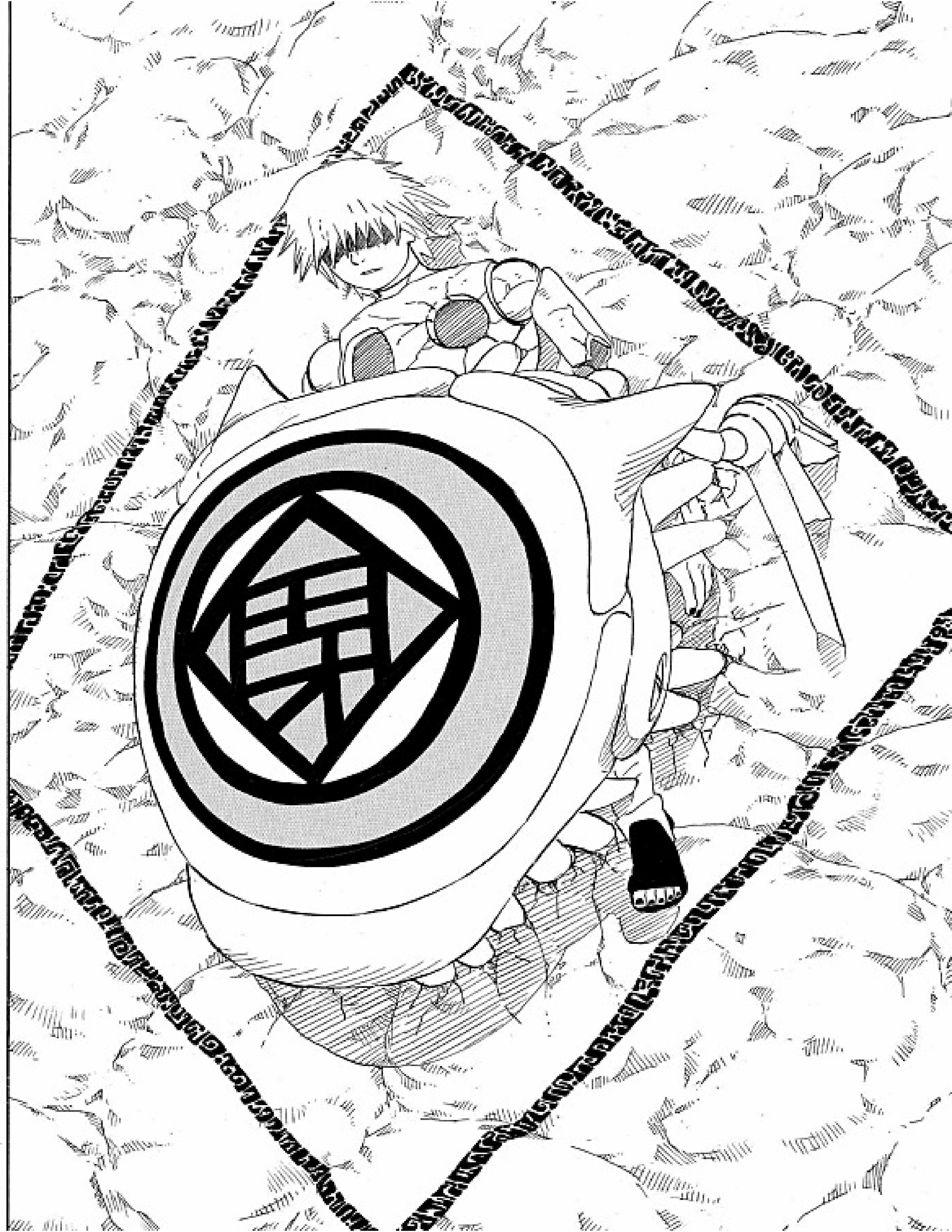
NOW!!



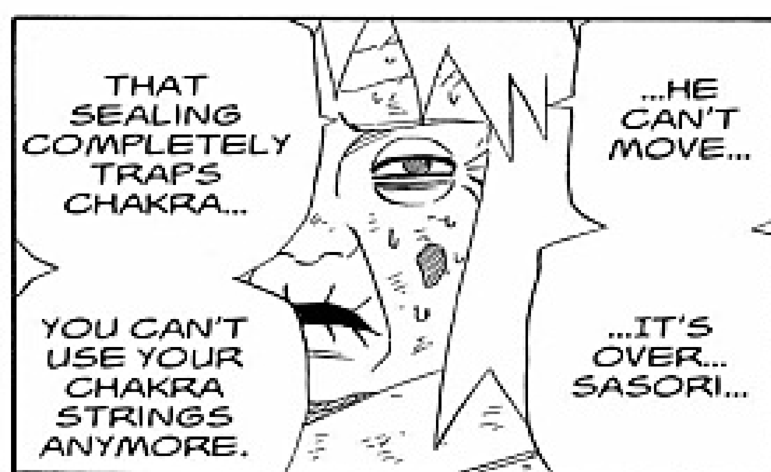
BLOOP
BOOF
!


READ
THIS
WAY

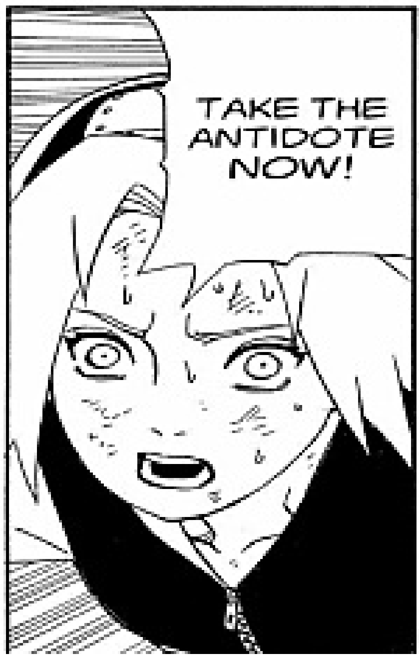





HUF
HUF
I DID IT...

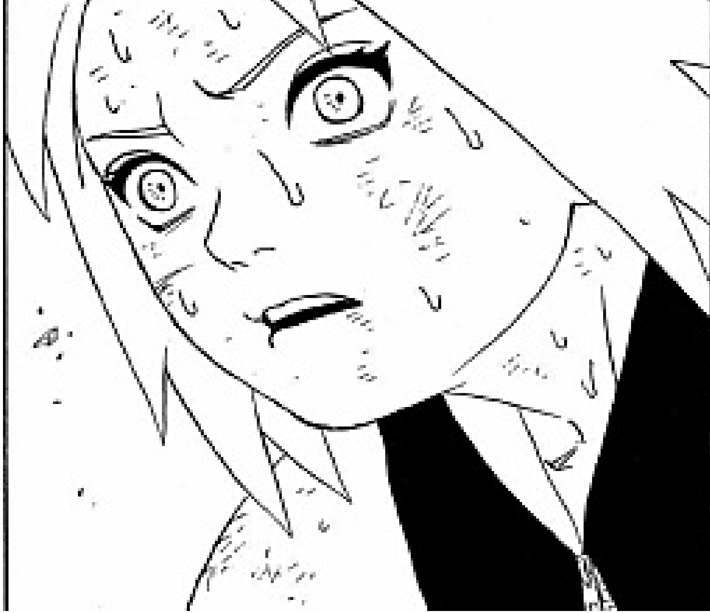

...HE CAN'T MOVE...
...IT'S OVER... SASORI...
THAT SEALING COMPLETELY TRAPS CHAKRA...
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR CHAKRA STRINGS ANYMORE.

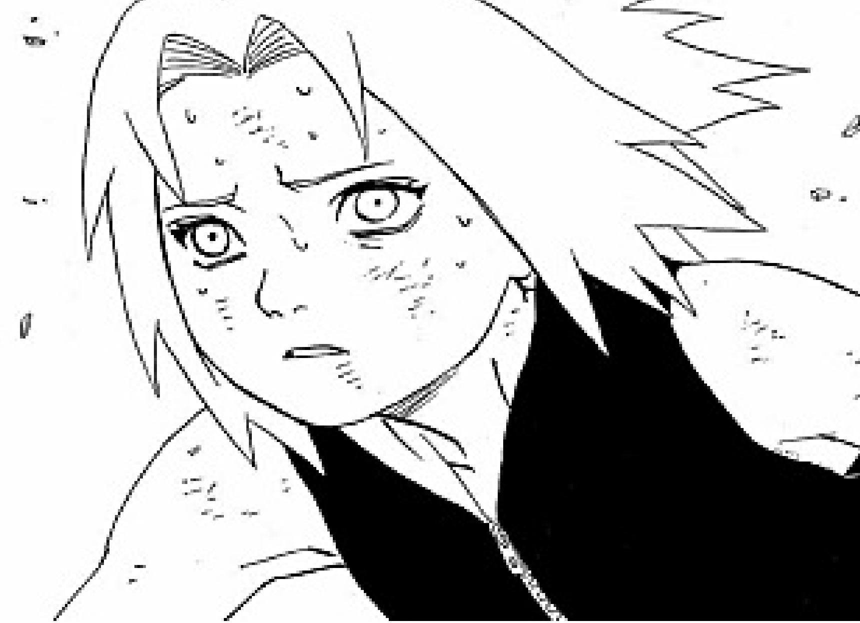

ZOOM
GRANNY CHIYO!!
STAGGER
UGH...


TAKE THE ANTIDOTE NOW!


KLAK

KACHAK

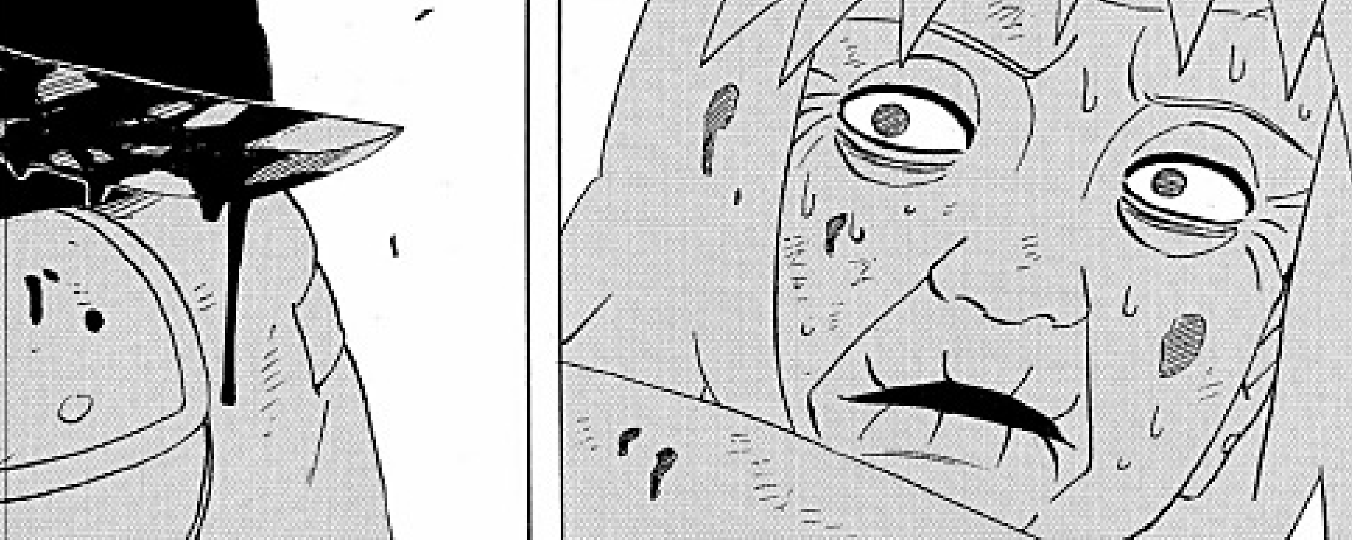





READ THIS WAY
FWOO
SSH

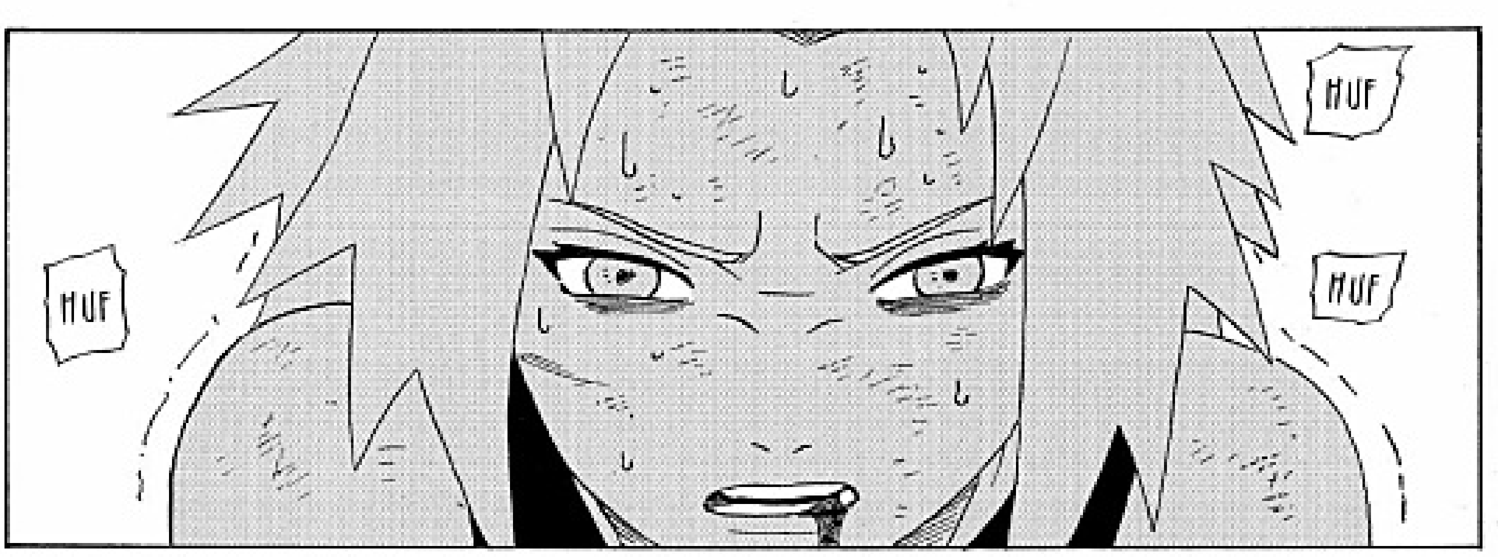







NARUTO


Number 274: Impossible Dream


HUF
HUF
HUF

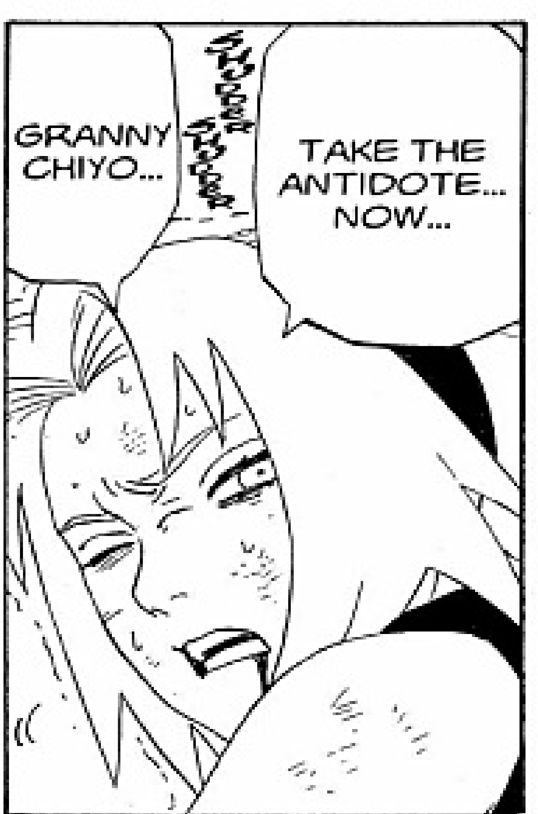

!
THROB
UGH...


SAKURA!!

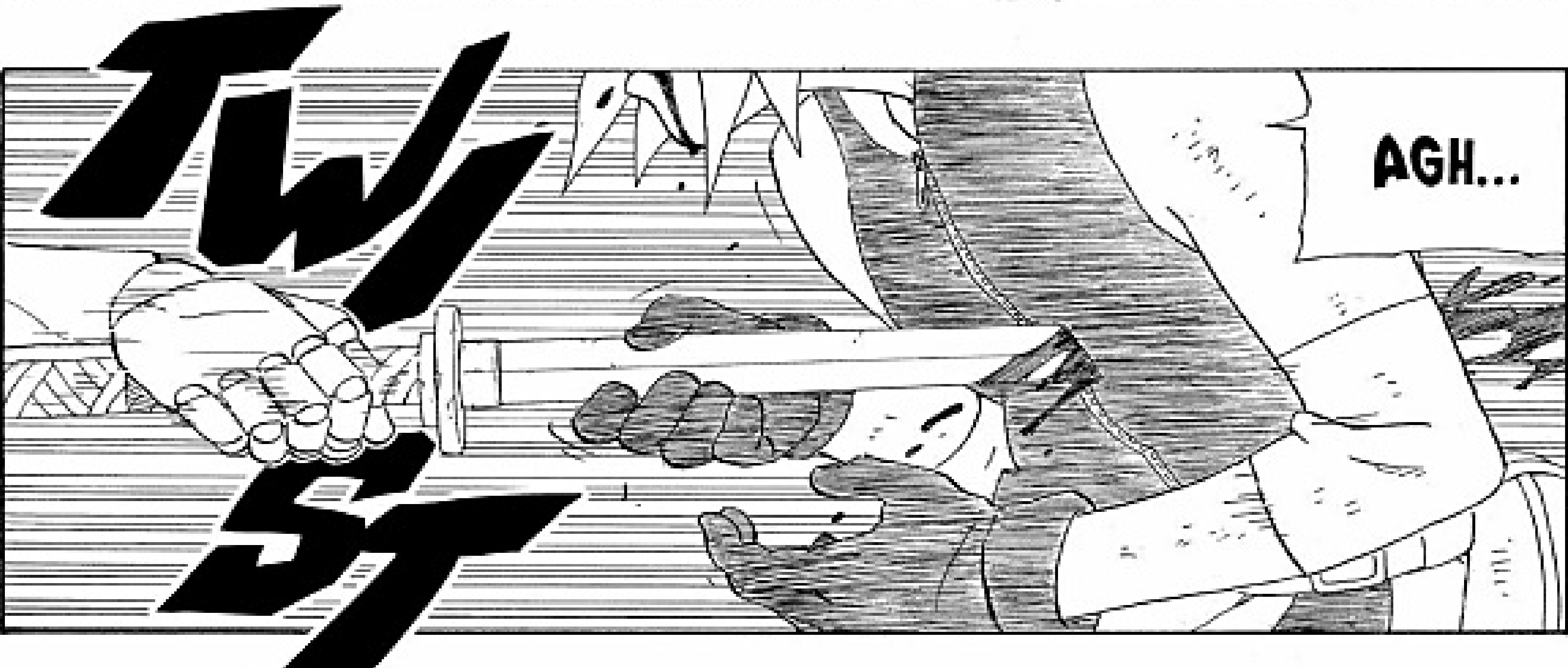

...


READ
THIS
WAY




TAKE THE ANTIDOTE... NOW...
SHUDDER SHUDDER
GRANNY CHIYO...


HMPH...
A WOUND LIKE THIS AND YOU STILL CARE ABOUT OTHERS?
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH.


AGH...
TWIST

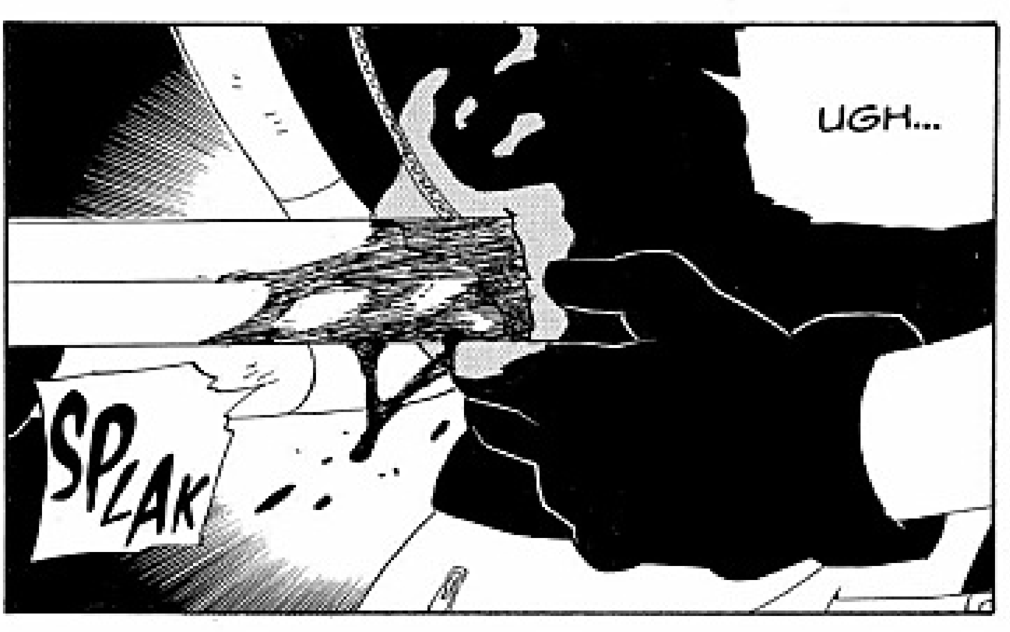

...

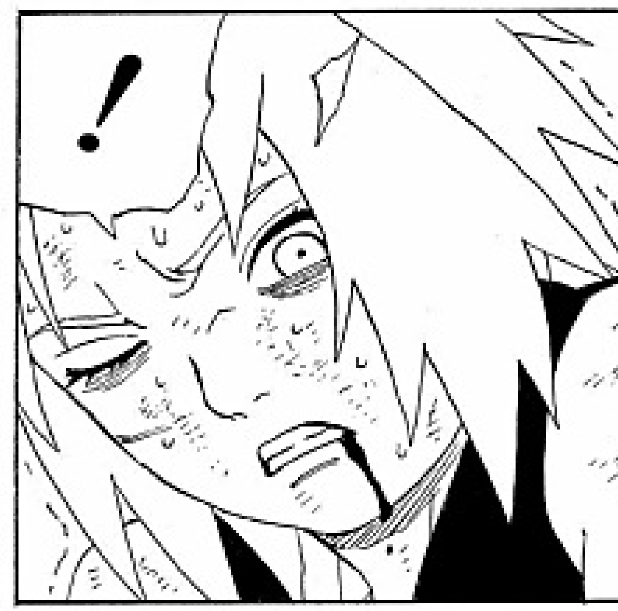

HUF
HUF

FSSSS

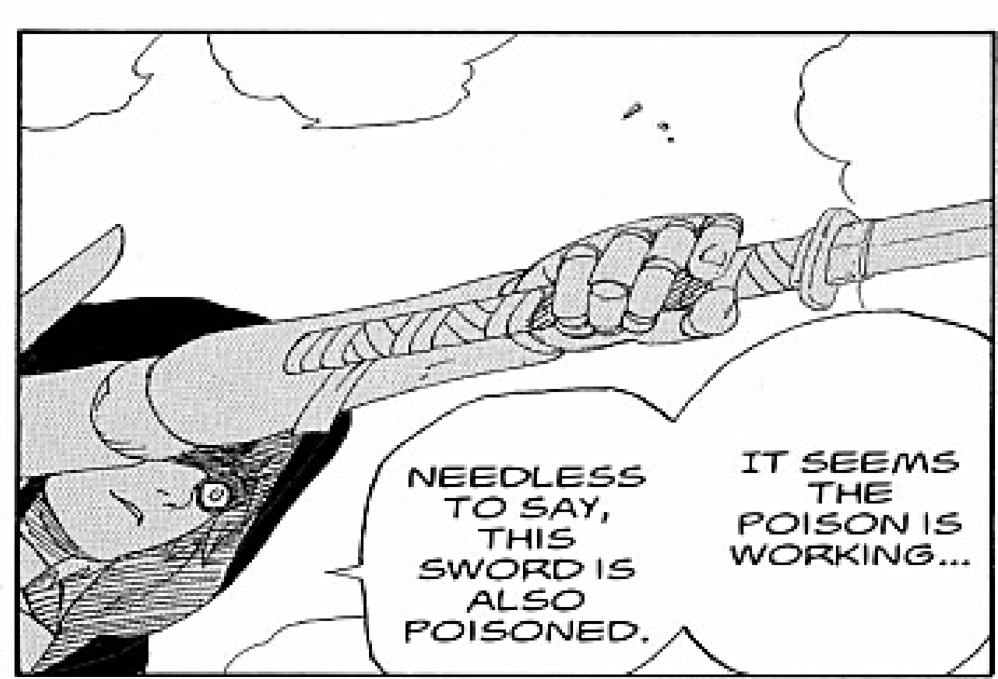

...SUCH SKILL.
SHE'S STOPPING THE BLEEDING AND HEALING THE WOUND WITH THE SWORD STILL INSIDE HER...

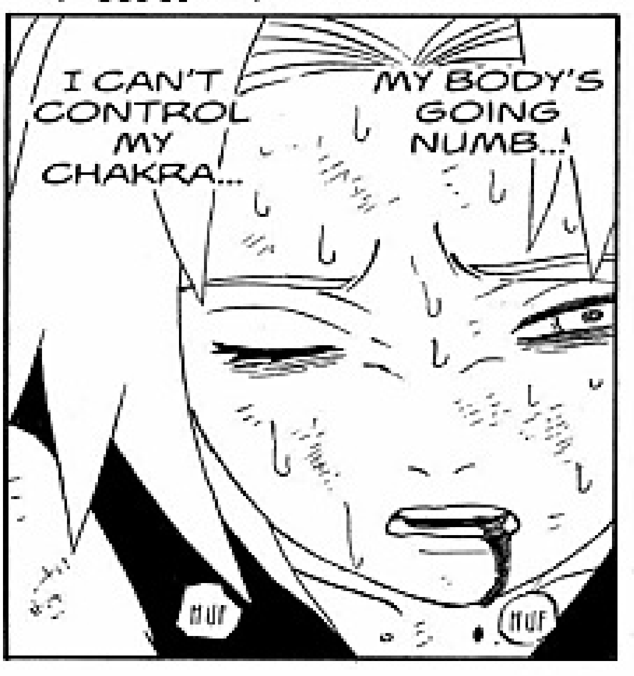

THIS GIRL...


UGH...
SPLAK

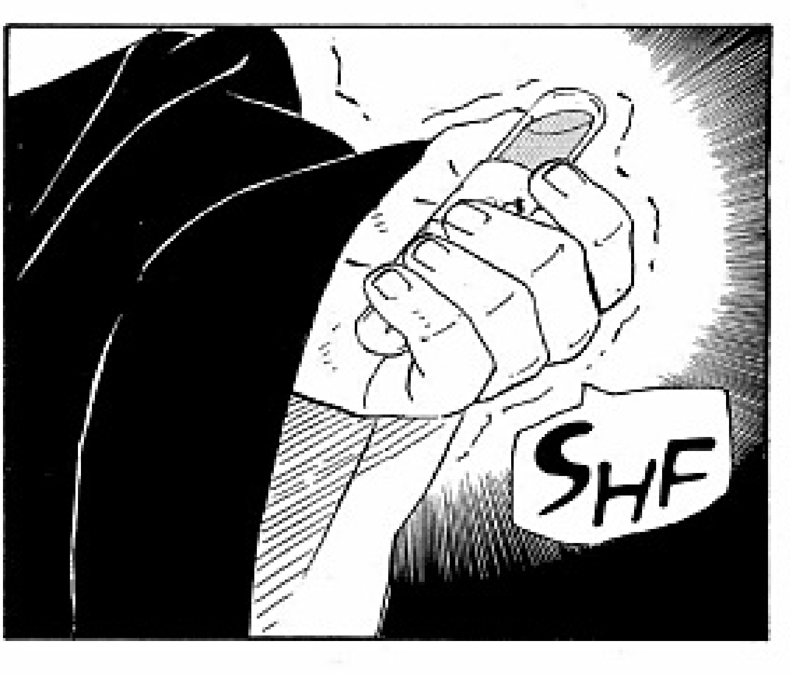

!


READ
THIS
WAY


IT SEEMS THE POISON IS WORKING...
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS SWORD IS ALSO POISONED.

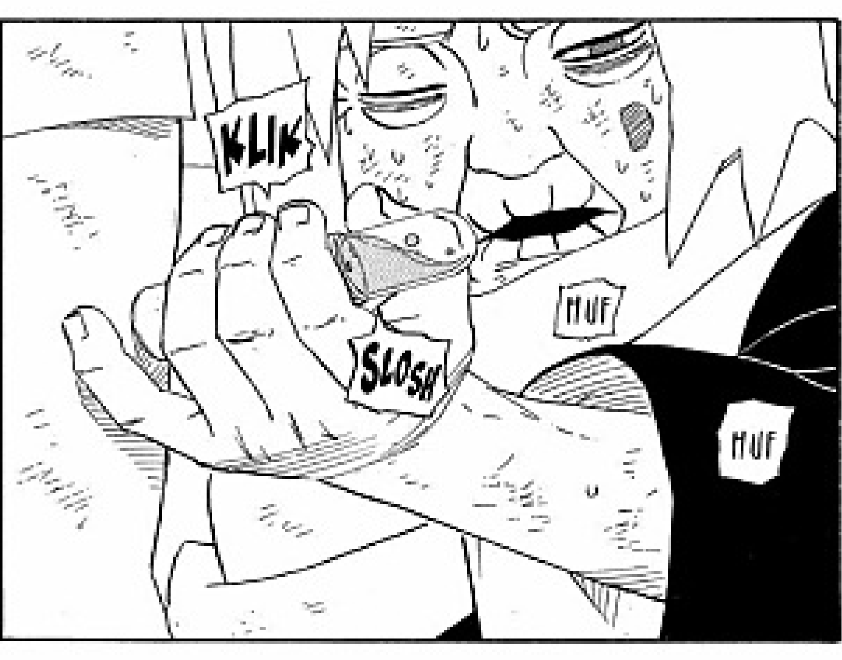
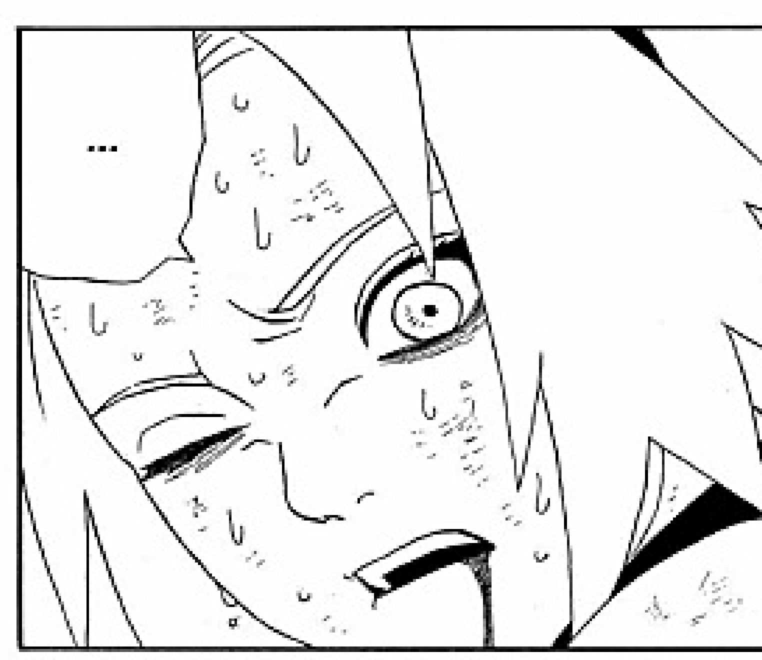

MY BODY'S GOING NUMB...!
I CAN'T CONTROL MY CHAKRA...
HUF
HUF




SHF

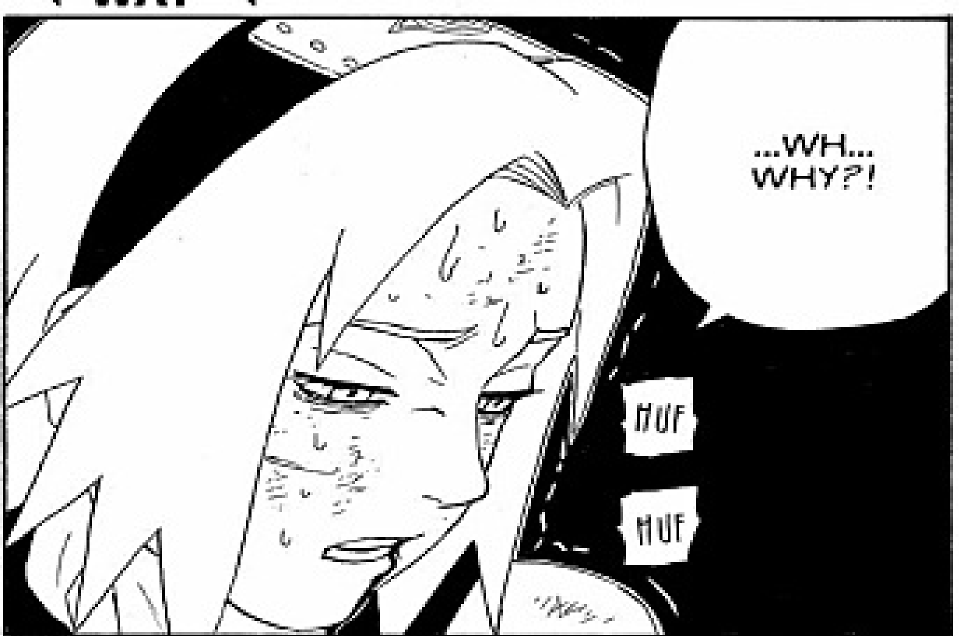

HUF
HUF


STIK

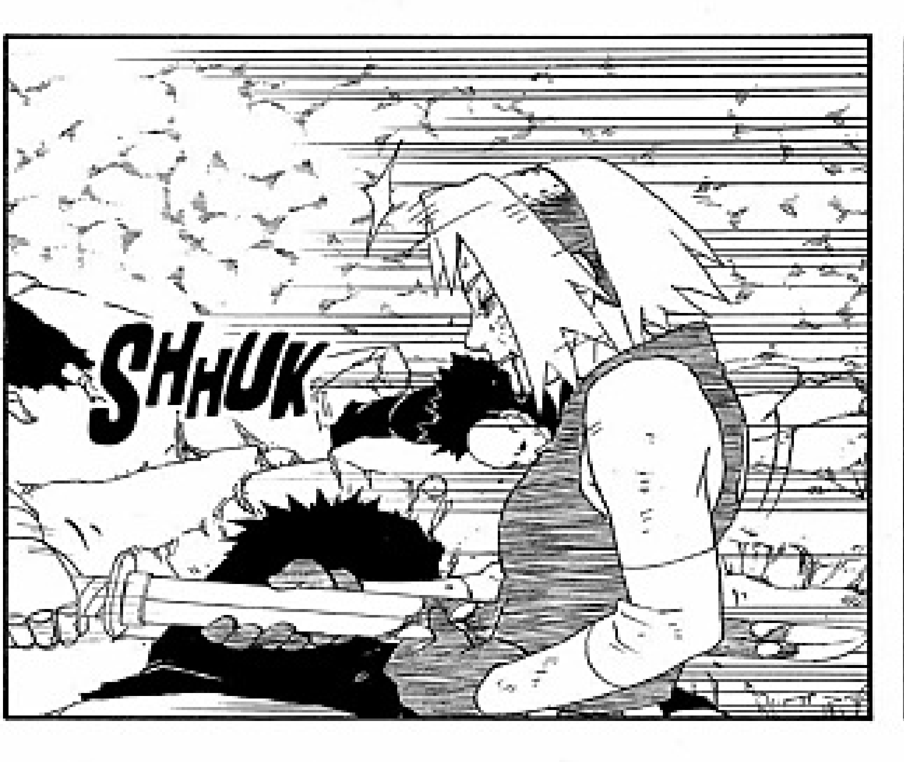

KLIK
SLOSH
MUF
MUF

...


READ
THIS
WAY


WHAT...?

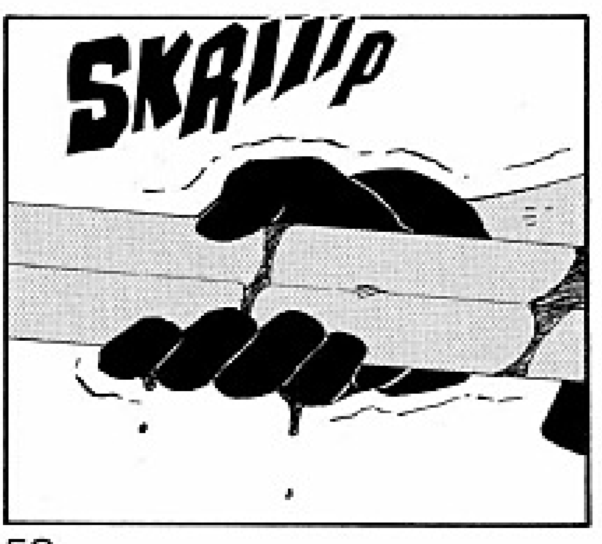

...WH...
WHY?!
HUF
HUF


SLUMP

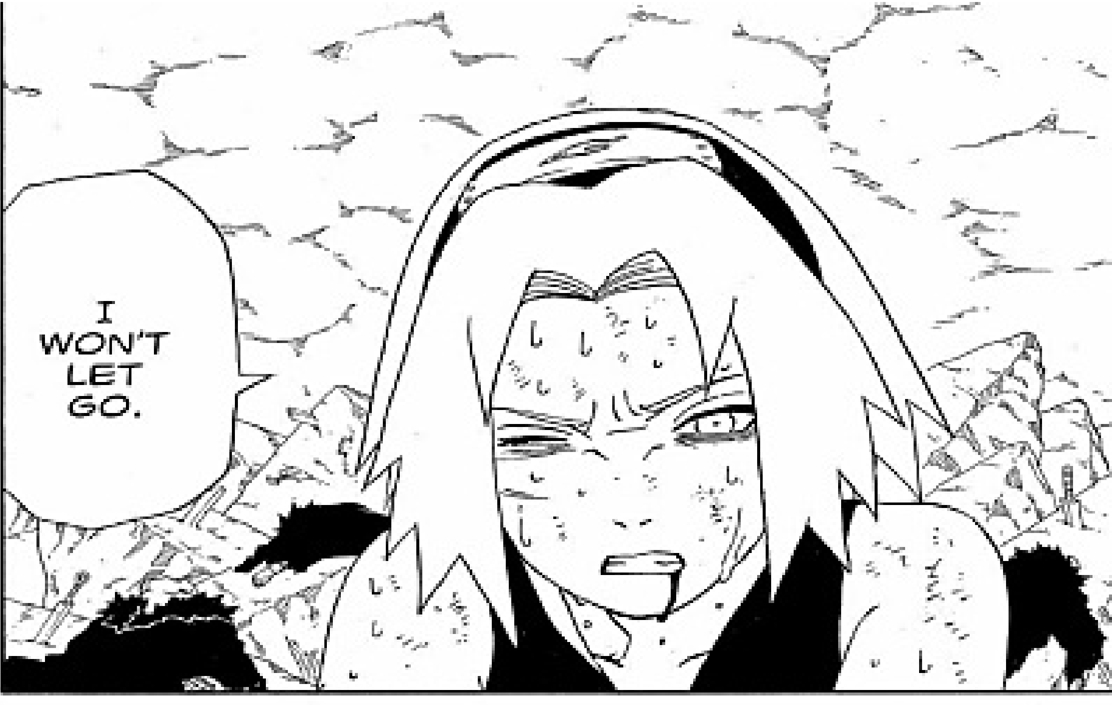

SHHUK

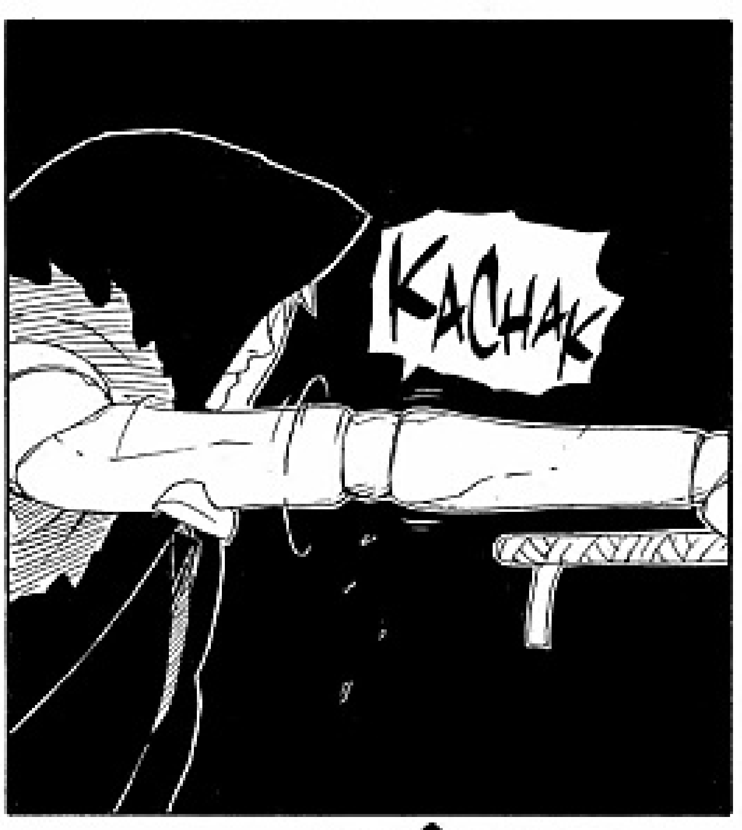

UGH...
!

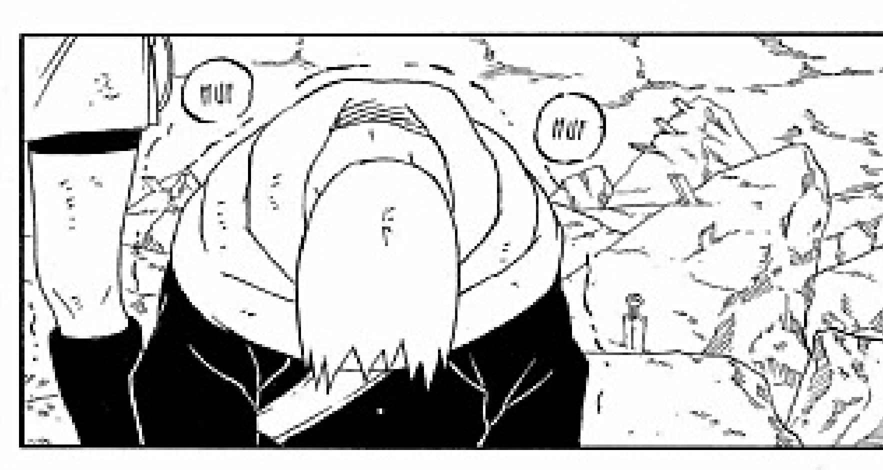

!
KLIK
KLIK


SKRIIIP

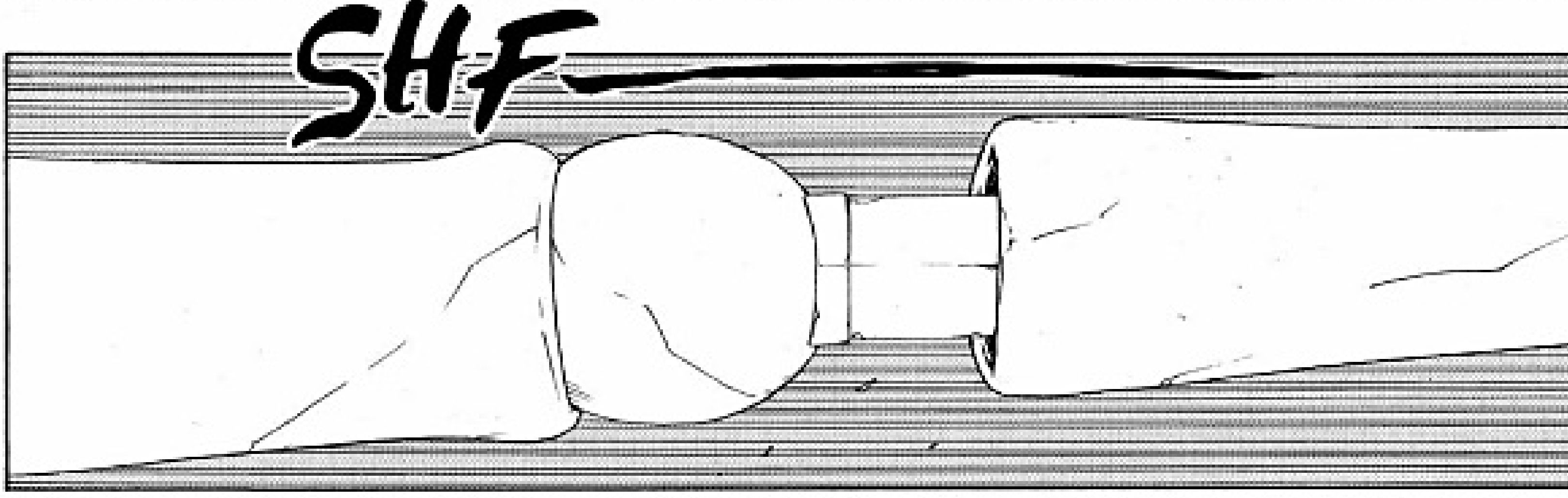

...


I WON'T LET GO.


KACHAK


HUF
HUF

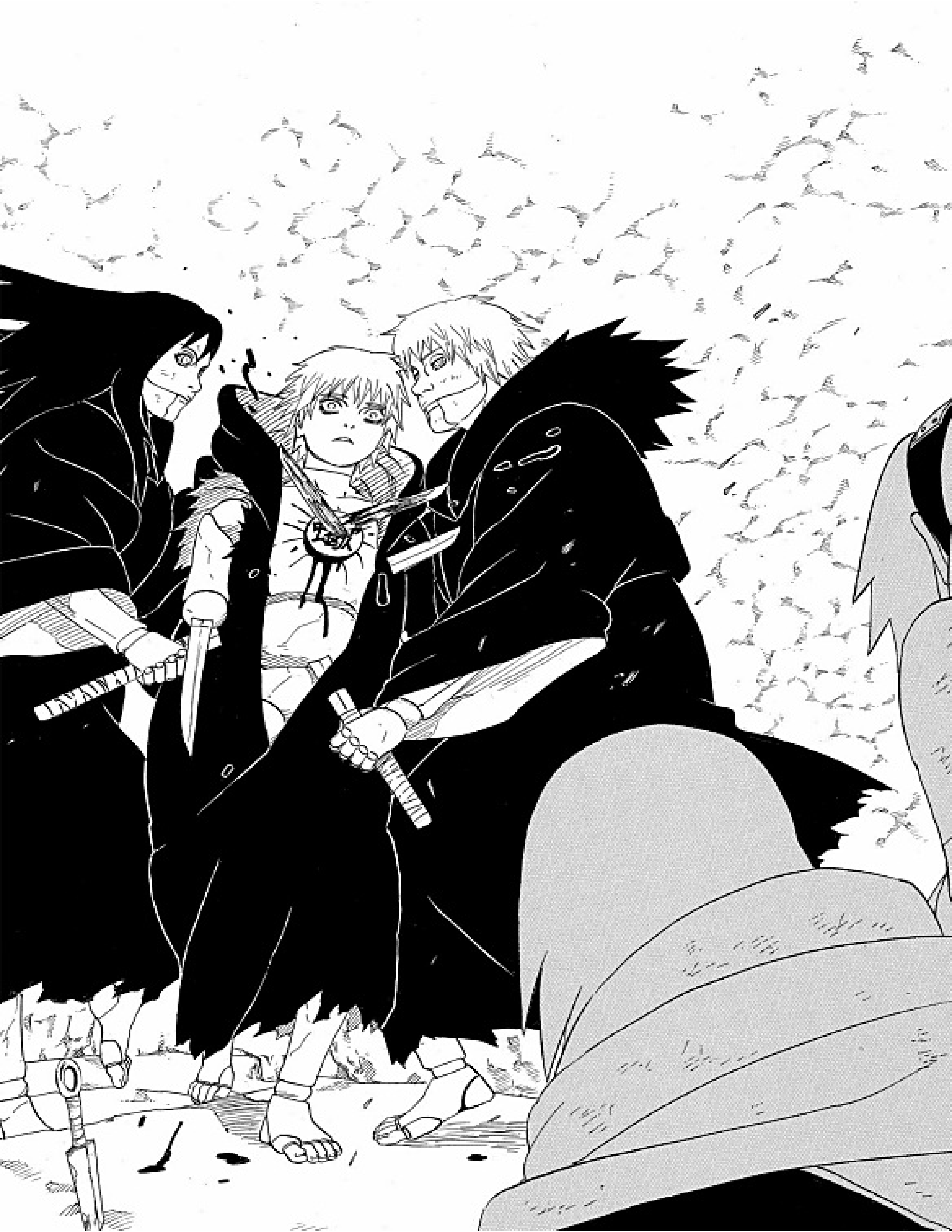

GRANNY CHIYO!


SHF

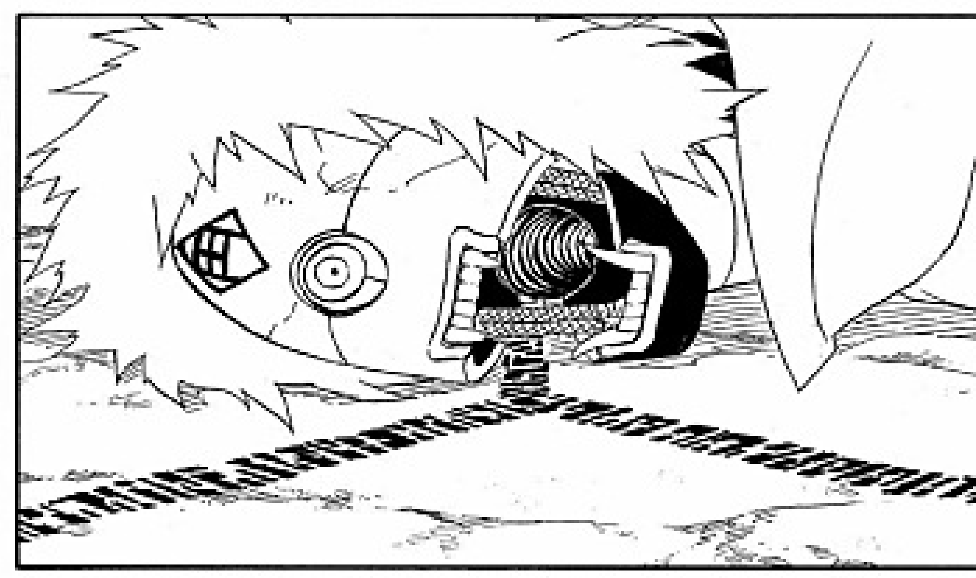

READ
THIS
WAY

SWISH
WHOOSH
RATTLE
FWIP
ZOOM
SHAK


READ THIS WAY
HUF
HUF
!

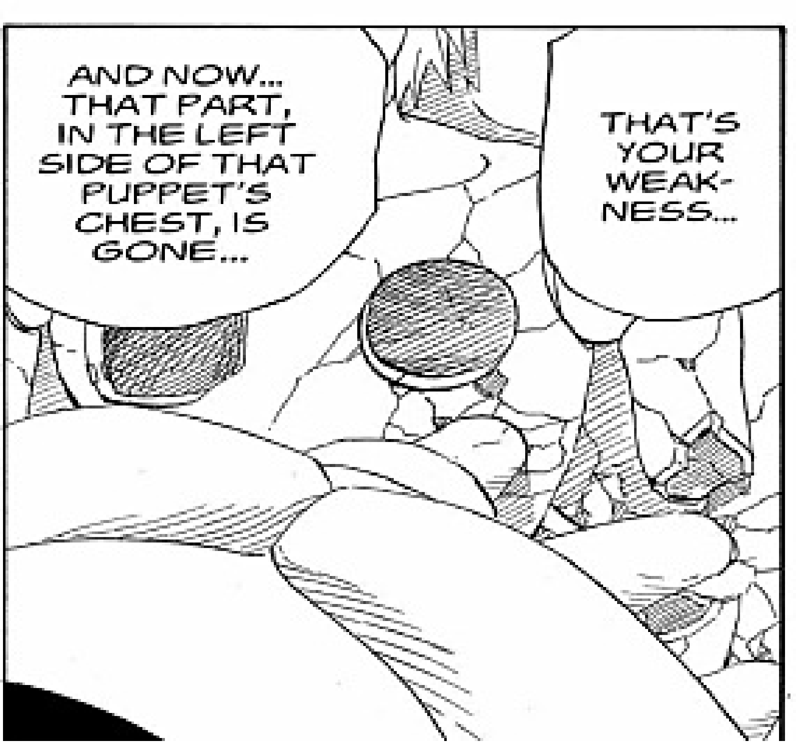


YOU LOWERED YOUR GUARD AT THE LAST MOMENT... SASORI...





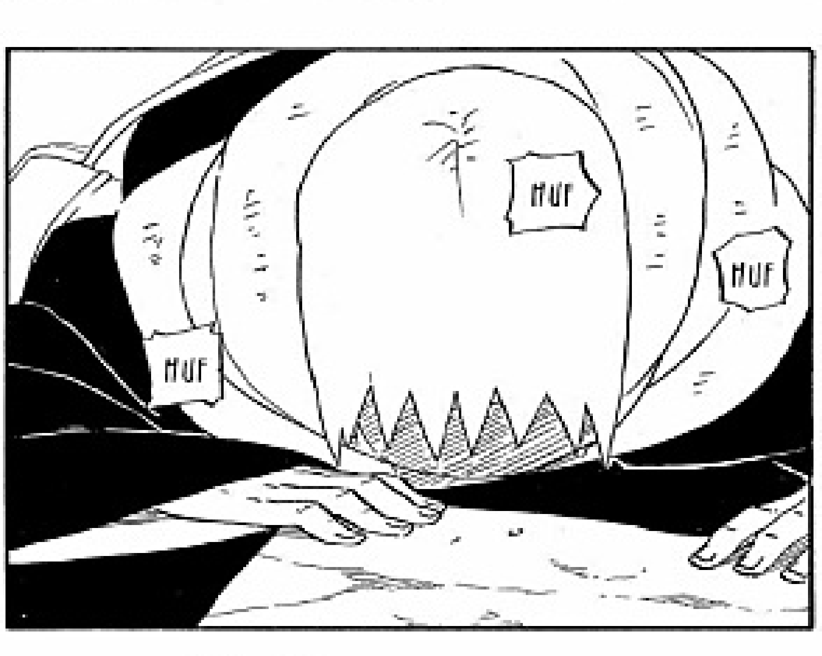




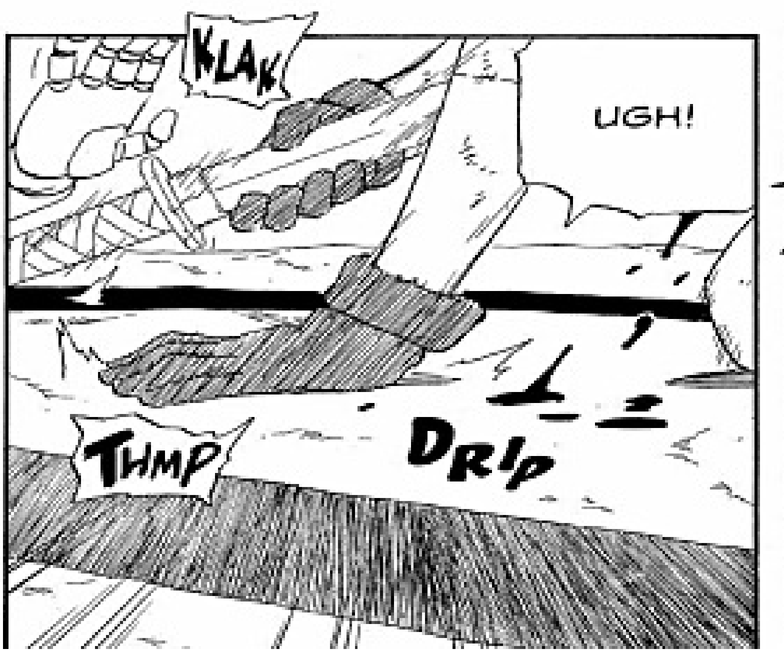

READ
THIS
WAY


THAT PUPPET BODY IS, IN FACT, JUST A DOLL.
YOUR TRUE NATURE IS THE CHAKRA-PRODUCING PART IN YOUR CHEST.


HEH...


HUF
HUF
HUF

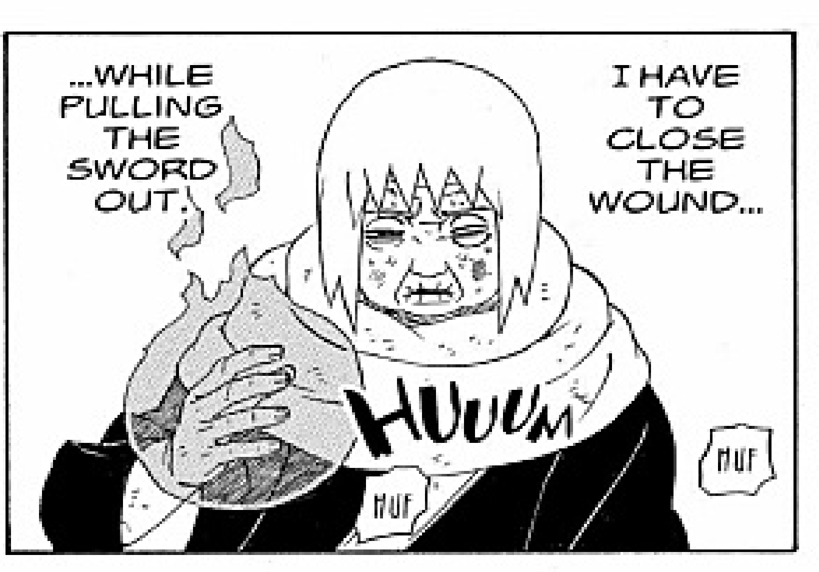

STAGGER


UGH!
KLAK
THMP
DRIP

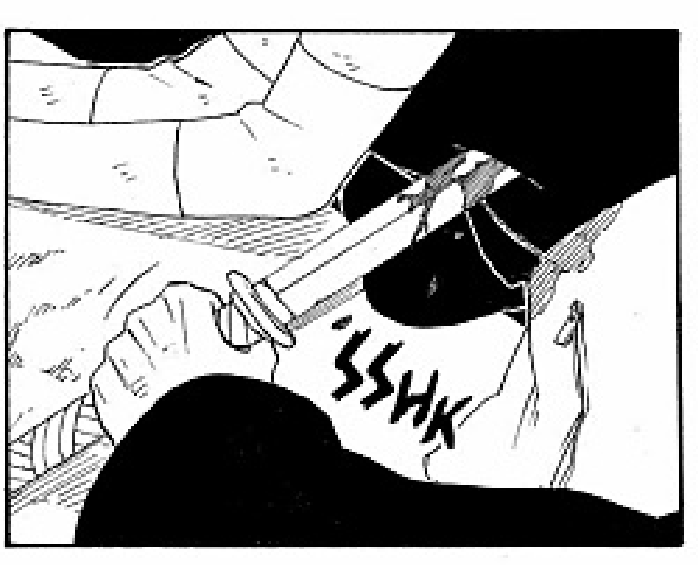

SLUMP
SAKURA!


SKF
SKF


GLUG
GLUG


I HAVE TO CLOSE THE WOUND...
...WHILE PULLING THE SWORD OUT.
HUUUM
HUF
HUF


HUUUM


SSHK

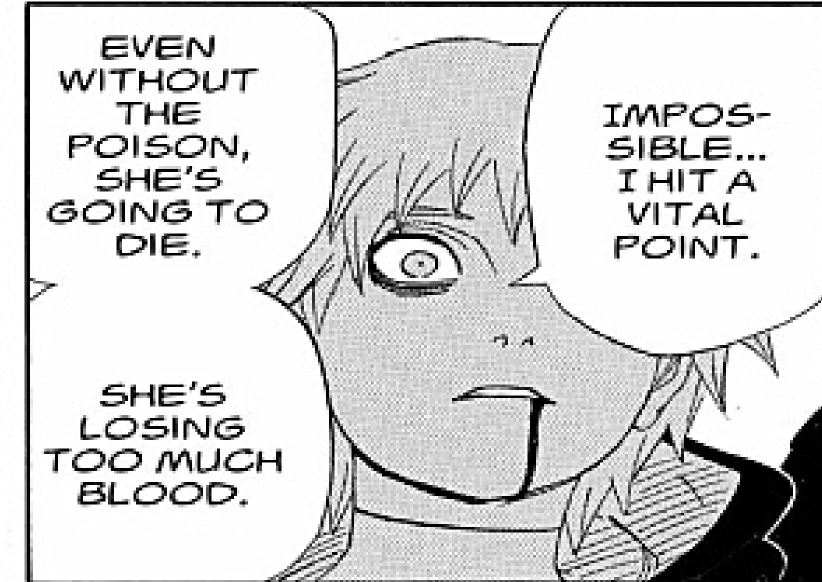

READ THIS WAY


UGH...
ZING


STAY WITH ME...
ALMOST... GOT IT...


KLANK
KLANK

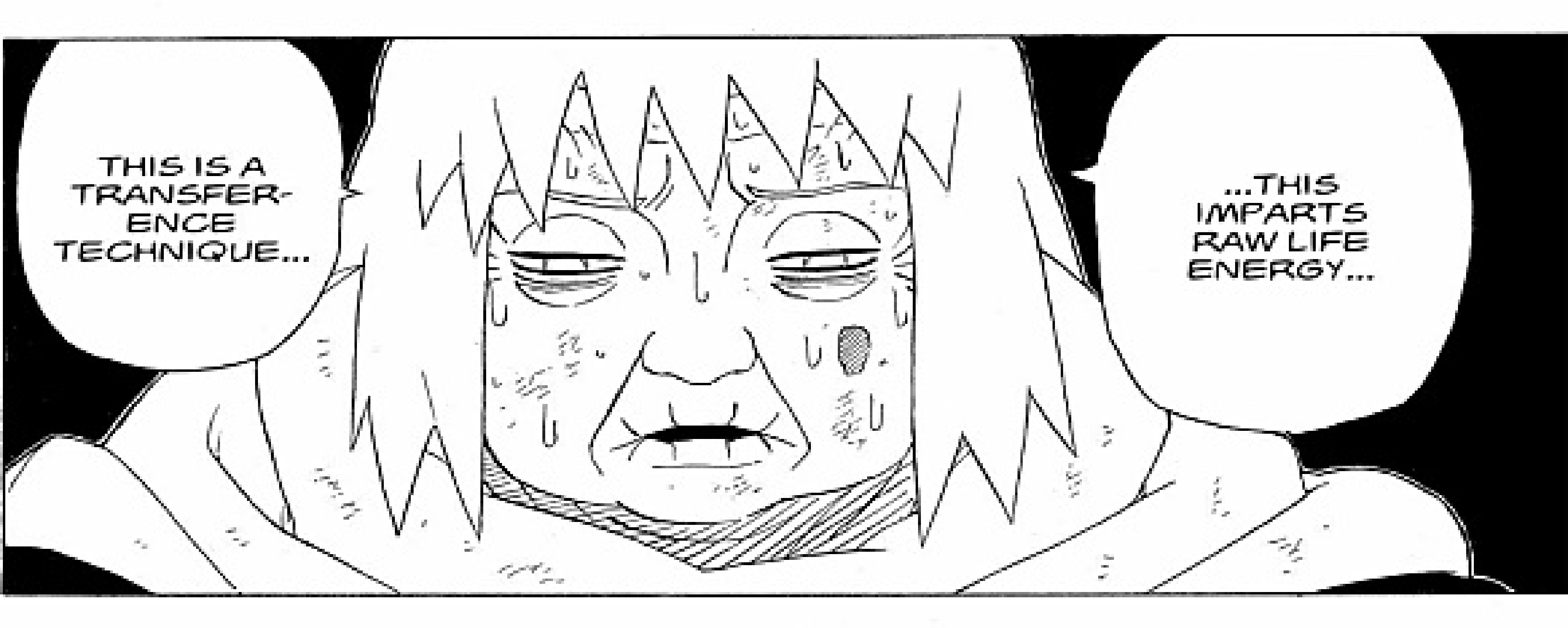

FSSSS


IMPOSSIBLE... I HIT A VITAL POINT.
EVEN WITHOUT THE POISON, SHE'S GOING TO DIE.
SHE'S LOSING TOO MUCH BLOOD.


YOU'RE ALSO A MEDIC NINJA...
SO I AIMED FOR A SPOT YOU CAN'T HEAL VERY EASILY.


HMPH... I'VE ALREADY DONE FIRST AID WITH MEDICAL NINJUTSU.
THIS IS NOT MEDICAL NINJUTSU...

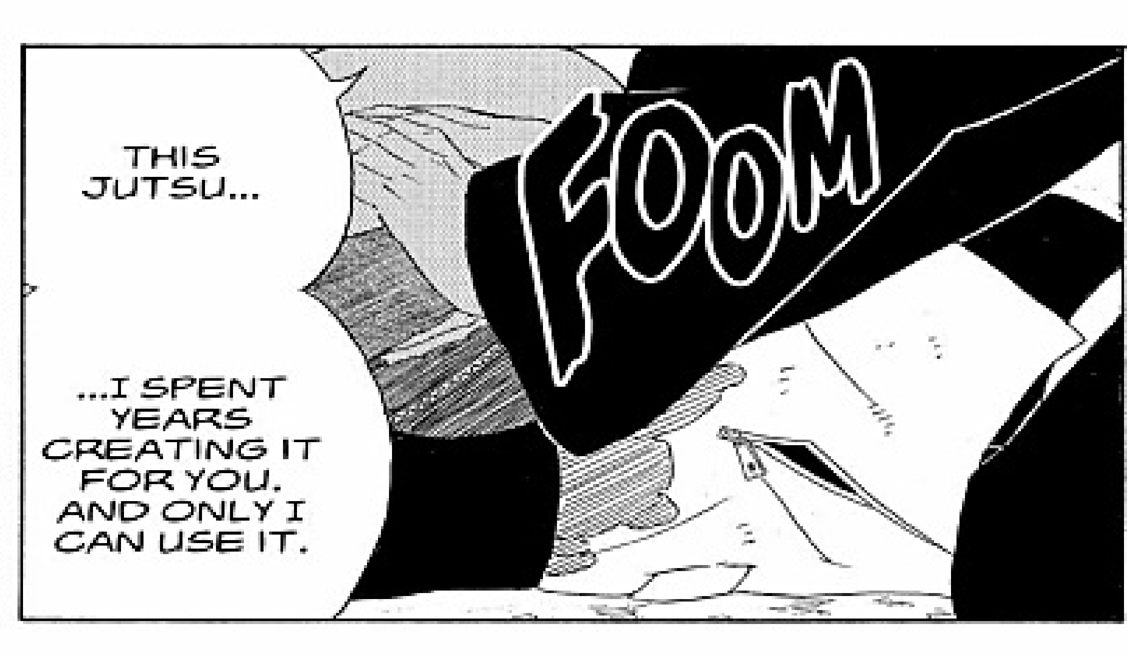

?


...THIS IMPARTS RAW LIFE ENERGY...
THIS IS A TRANSFERENCE TECHNIQUE...



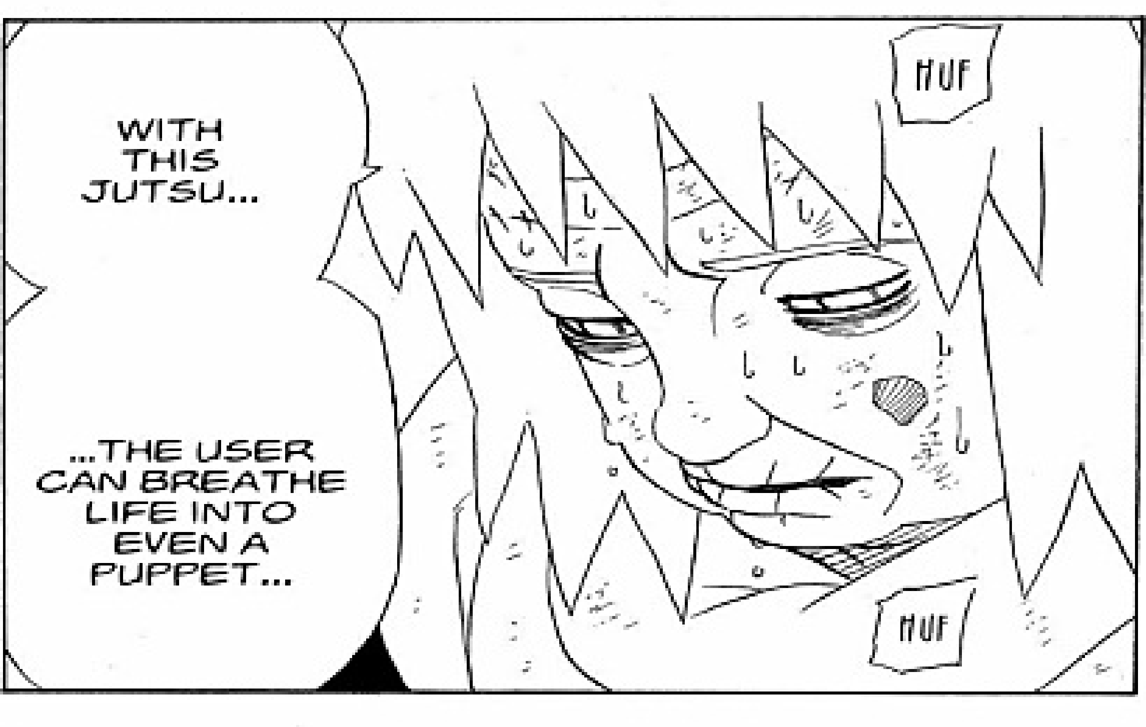

...


READ
THIS
WAY


THIS JUTSU...
...I SPENT YEARS CREATING IT FOR YOU. AND ONLY I CAN USE IT.
FOOM


...?


...
SHF

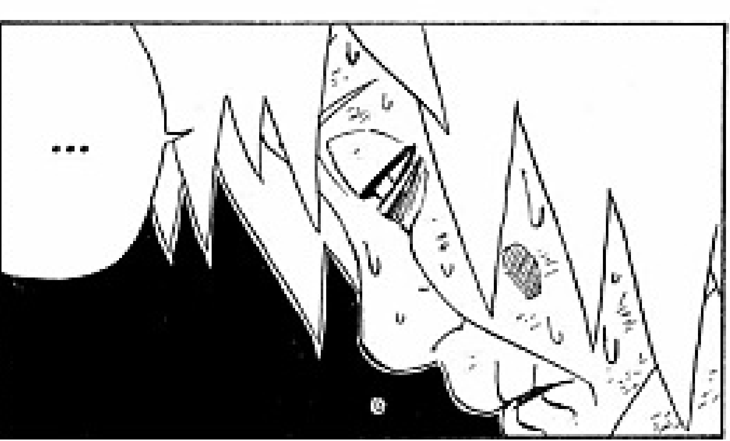

HUF
WITH THIS JUTSU...
...THE USER CAN BREATHE LIFE INTO EVEN A PUPPET...
HUF

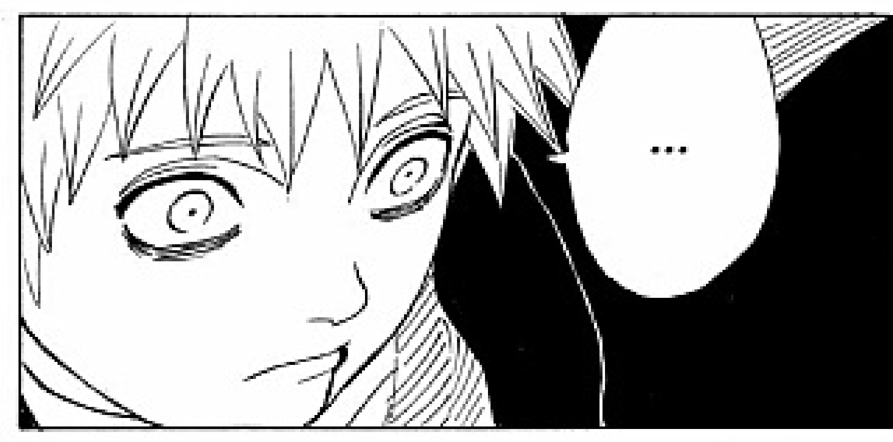

...

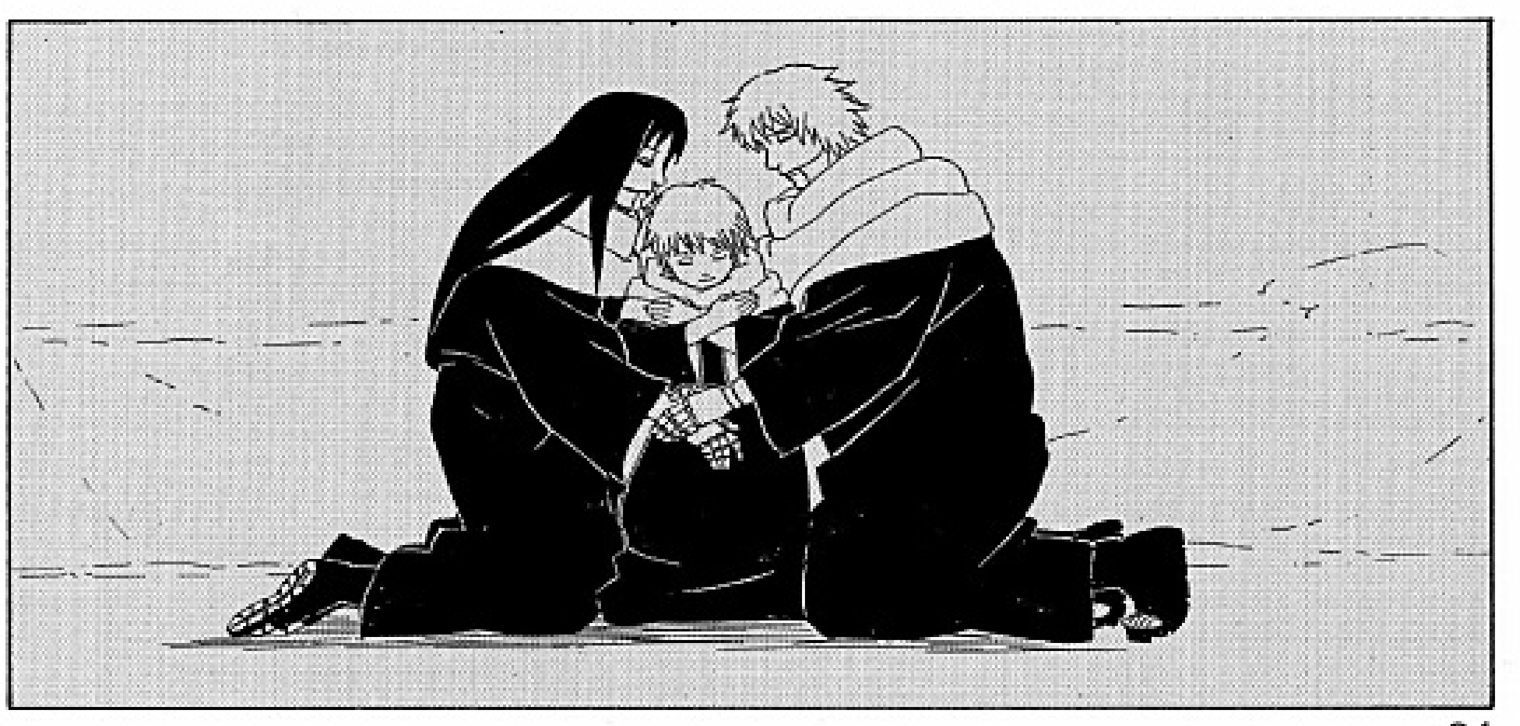

...



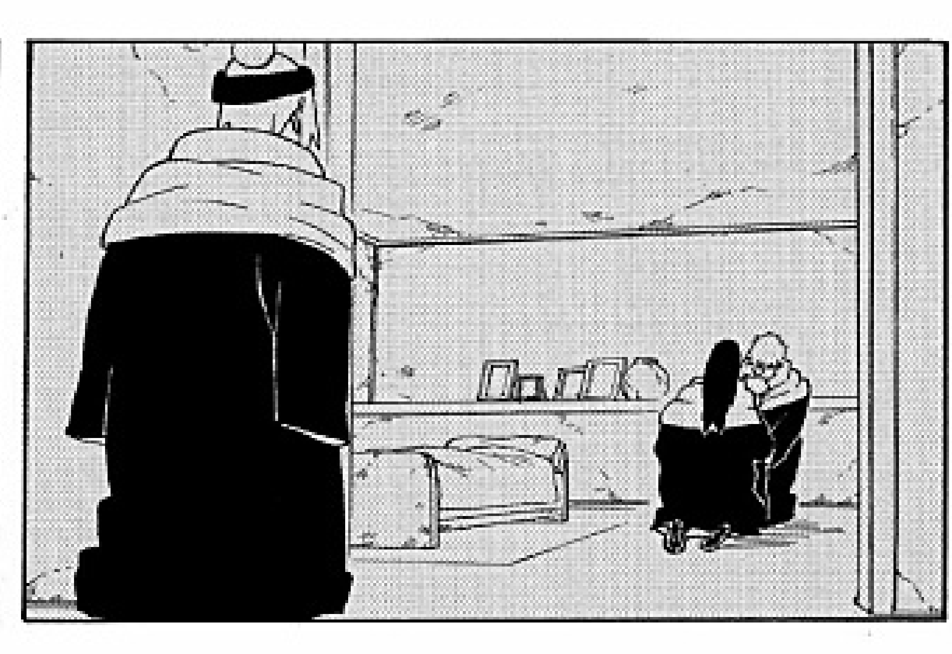
...IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE OF THE USER...

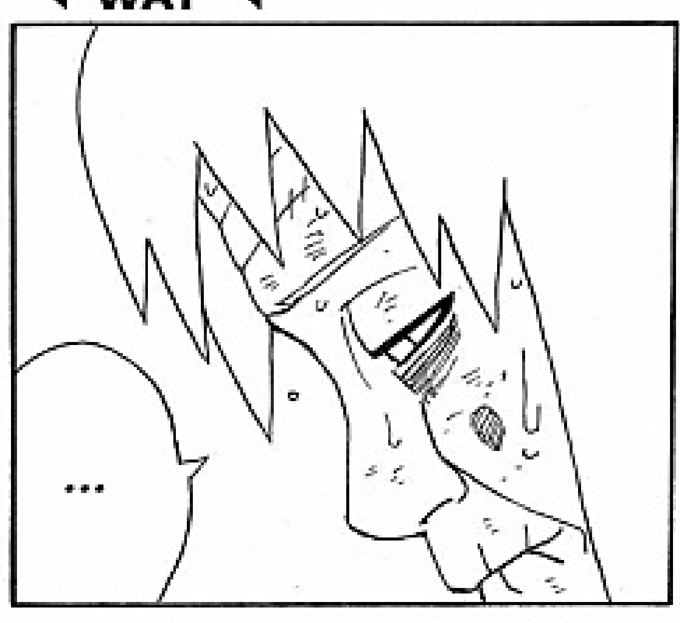


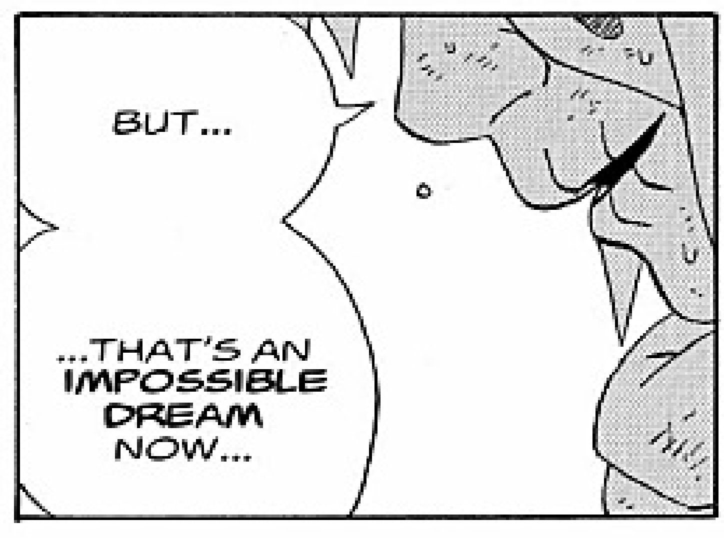
















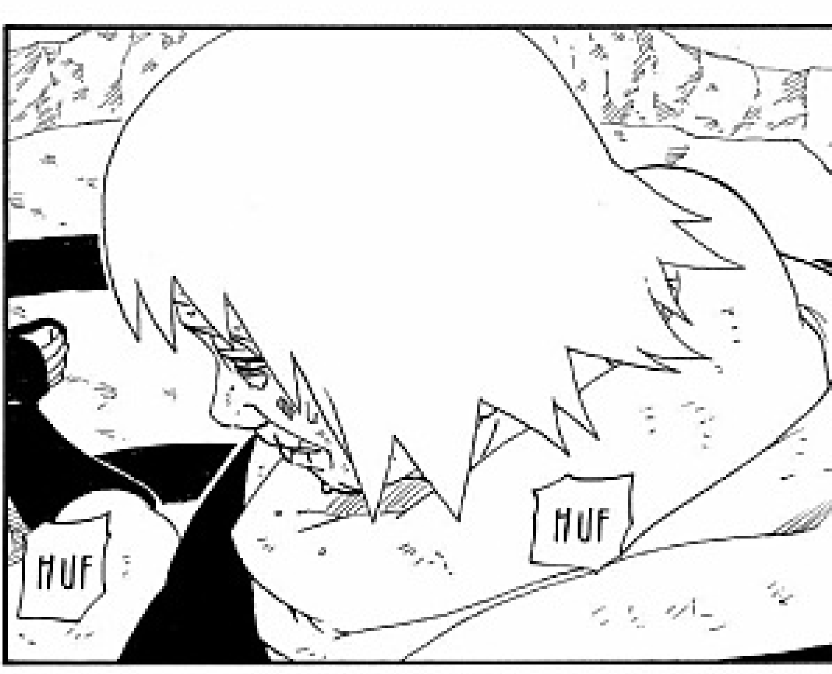
...NON-SENSE...




Number 275:
Reward...!!

UTTER NONSENSE...

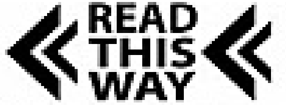
WHEN DID YOU GO SO SENILE, GRANNY?










READ
THIS
WAY


HUF
SAKURA... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUF
YES...


WHAT ABOUT YOU, GRANNY CHIYO...?

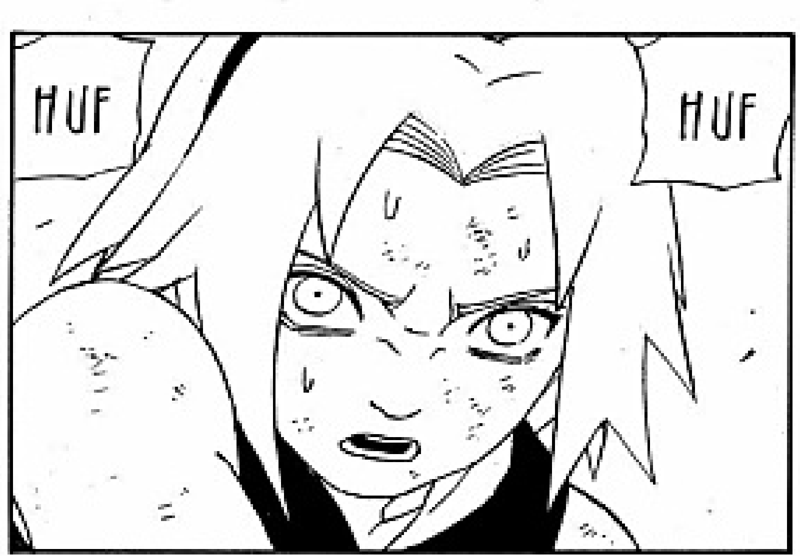

HM?
STRANGE...


WITH A TRANSFER-ENCE TECH-NIQUE, OR WHATEVER IT'S CALLED...
...DOESN'T THE WIELDER DIE IN EXCHANGE FOR BRINGING THE RECIPIENT BACK TO LIFE?

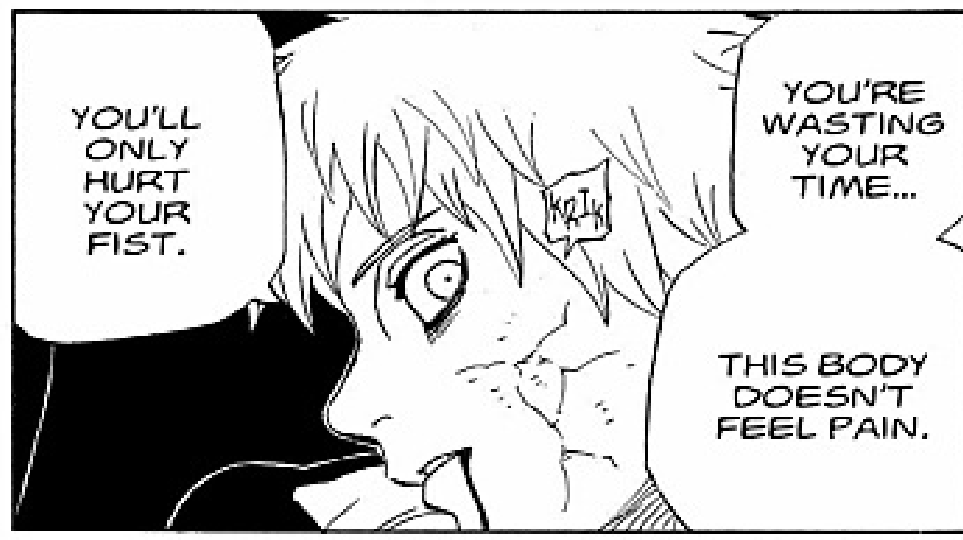

...SAKURA WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED...
...BUT HAD NOT YET DIED.
THAT'S WHY... I SURVIVED.
HUF


OH... WHAT A SHAME.

THOK


HUF
HUF


...


YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME...
THIS BODY DOESN'T FEEL PAIN.
YOU'LL ONLY HURT YOUR FIST.


HUF
...
HUF







EVEN IF MY OWN GRAND-MOTHER DIES...

...I WON'T FEEL A THING.

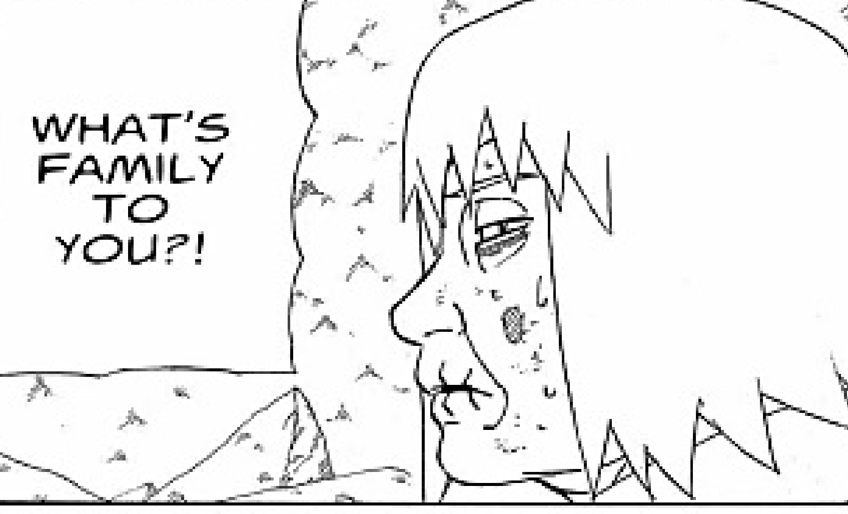
MY HEART IS...

...JUST LIKE THIS BODY.



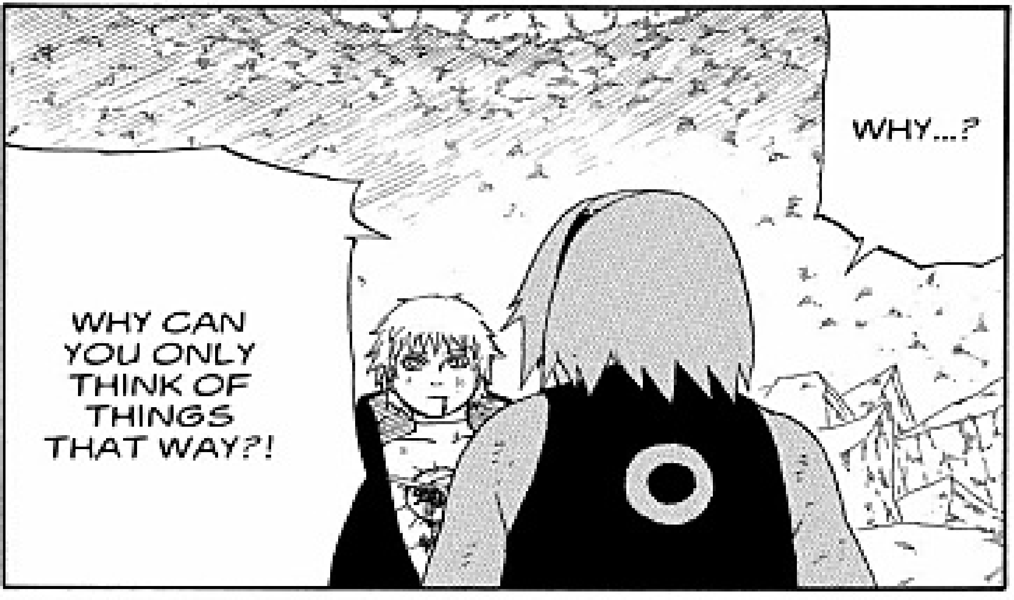


WHAT DO YOU THINK...
...HUMAN LIFE IS?!

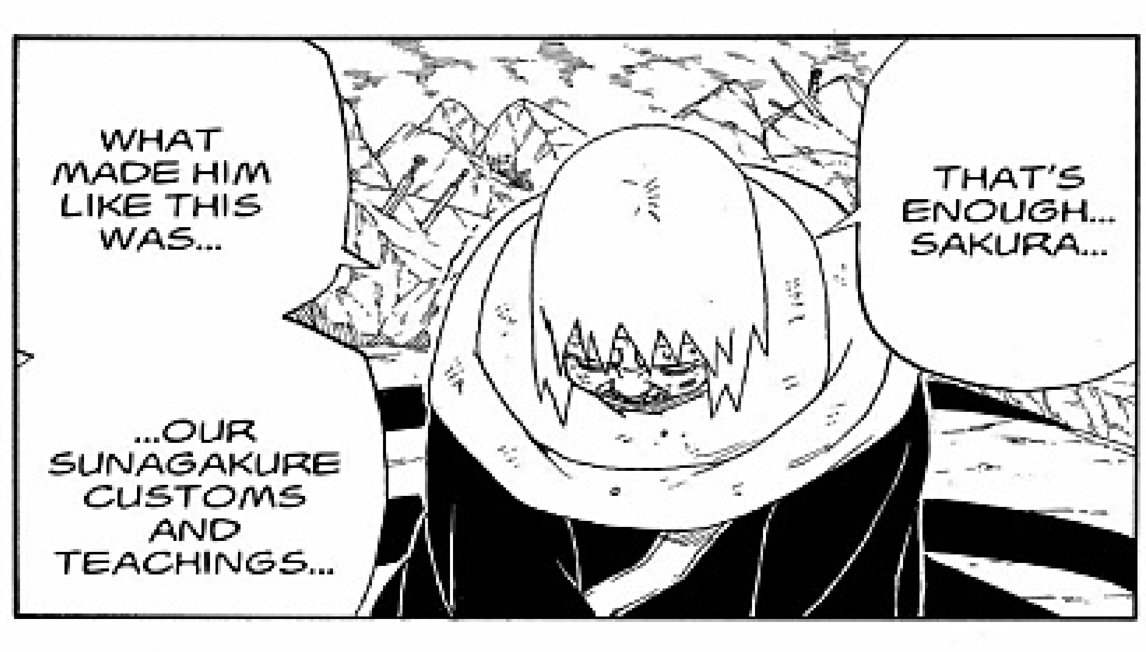


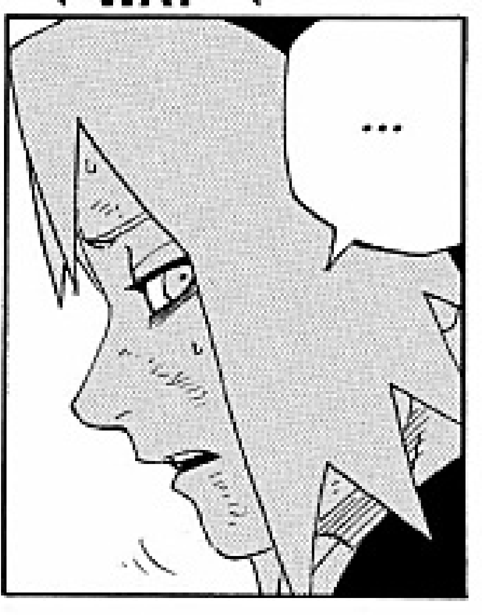


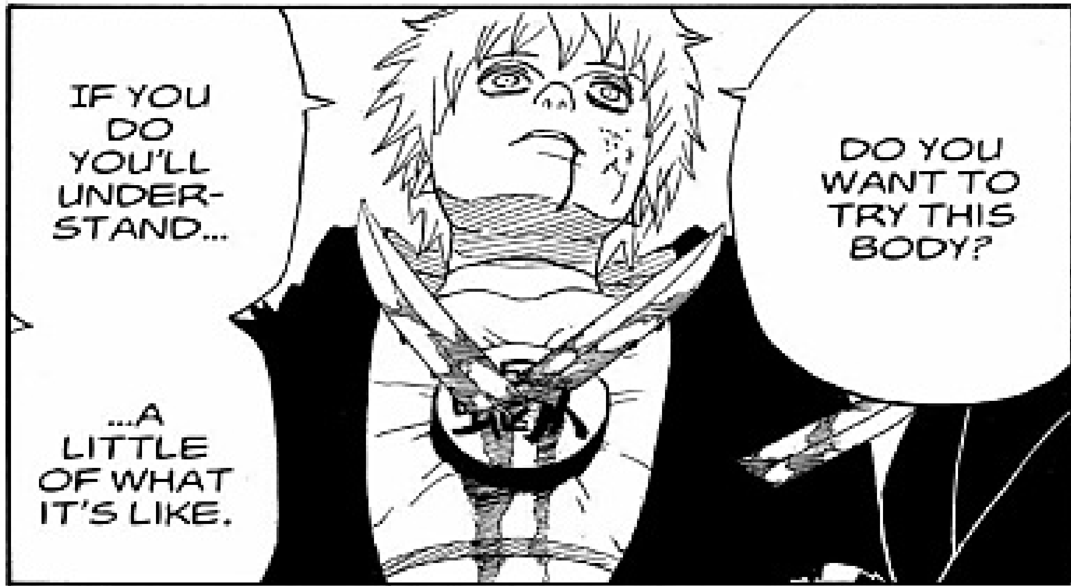


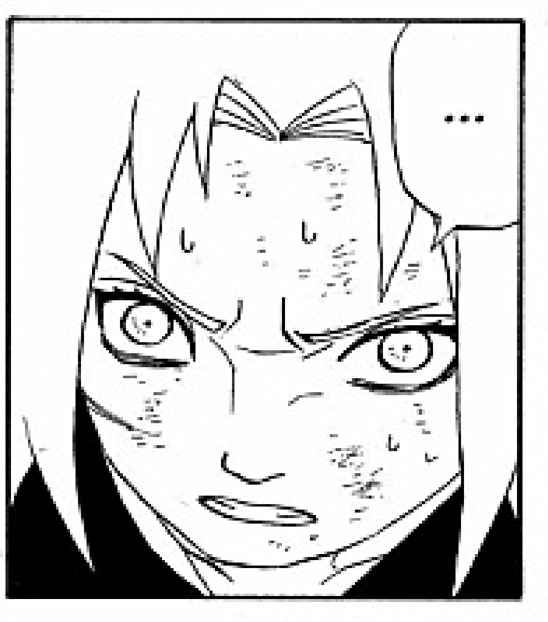


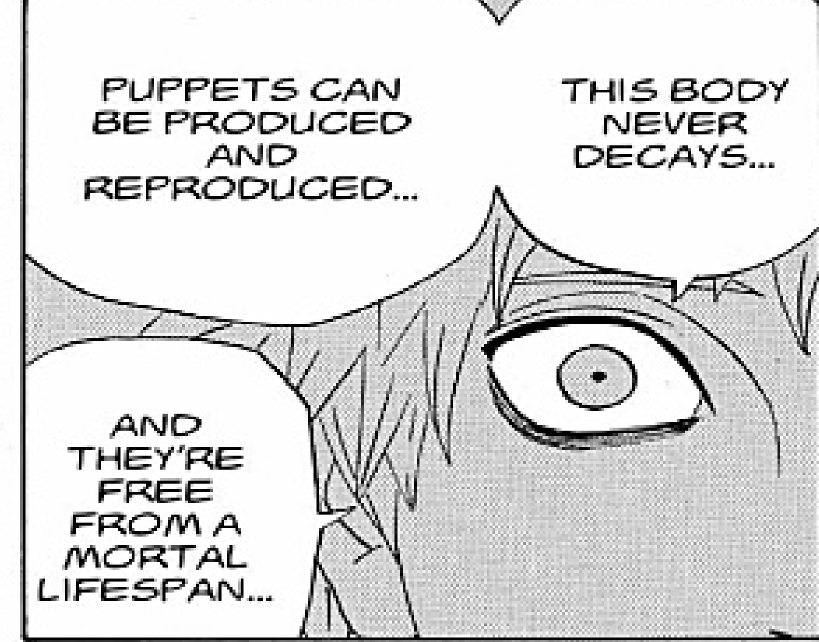

READ
THIS
WAY

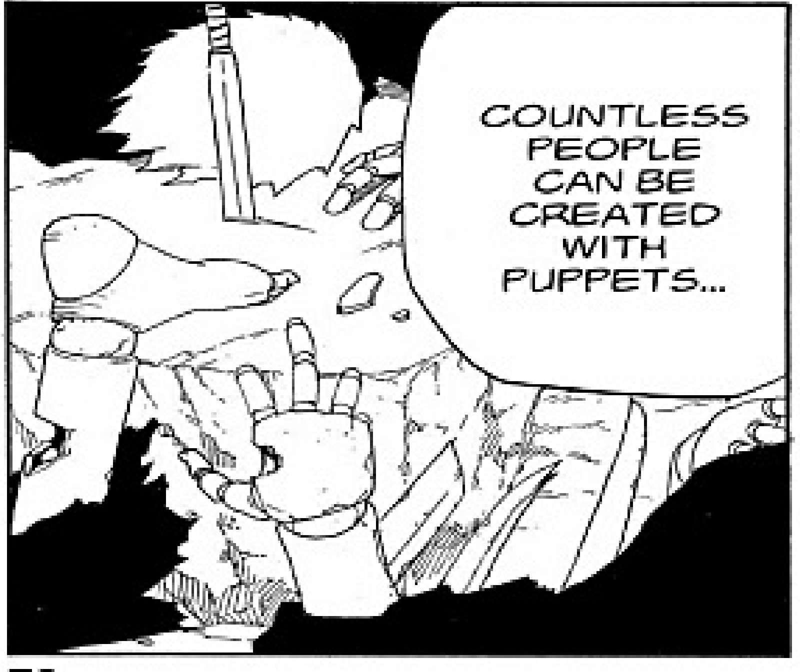

THAT'S ENOUGH... SAKURA...
WHAT MADE HIM LIKE THIS WAS...
...OUR SUNAGAKURE CUSTOMS AND TEACHINGS...


...

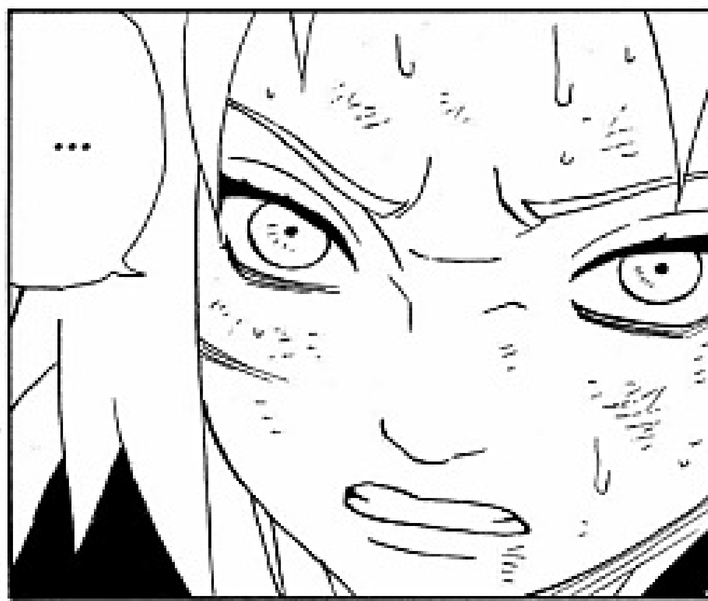

DO YOU WANT TO TRY THIS BODY?
IF YOU DO YOU'LL UNDER-STAND...
...A LITTLE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE.

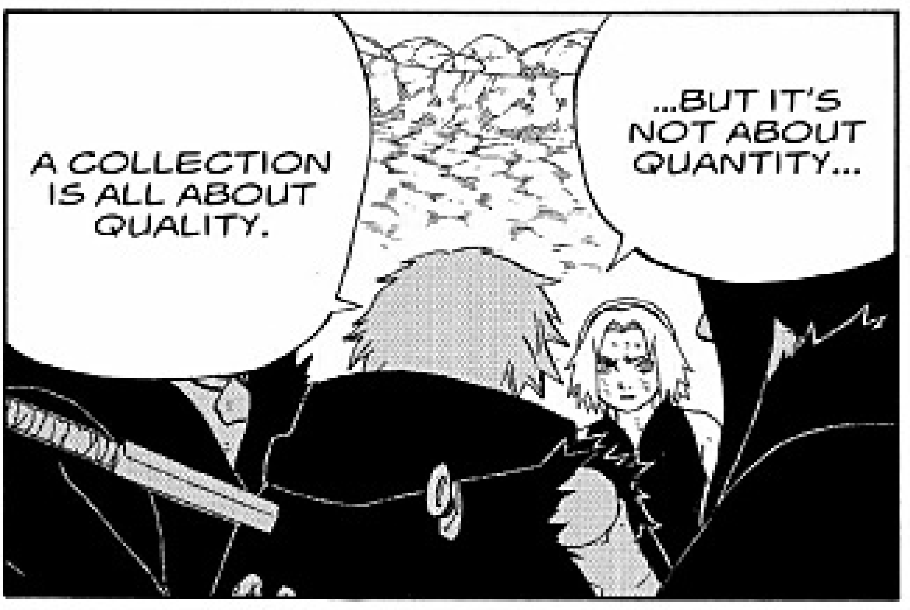

...


THIS BODY NEVER DECAYS...
PUPPETS CAN BE PRODUCED AND REPRODUCED...
AND THEY'RE FREE FROM A MORTAL LIFESPAN...

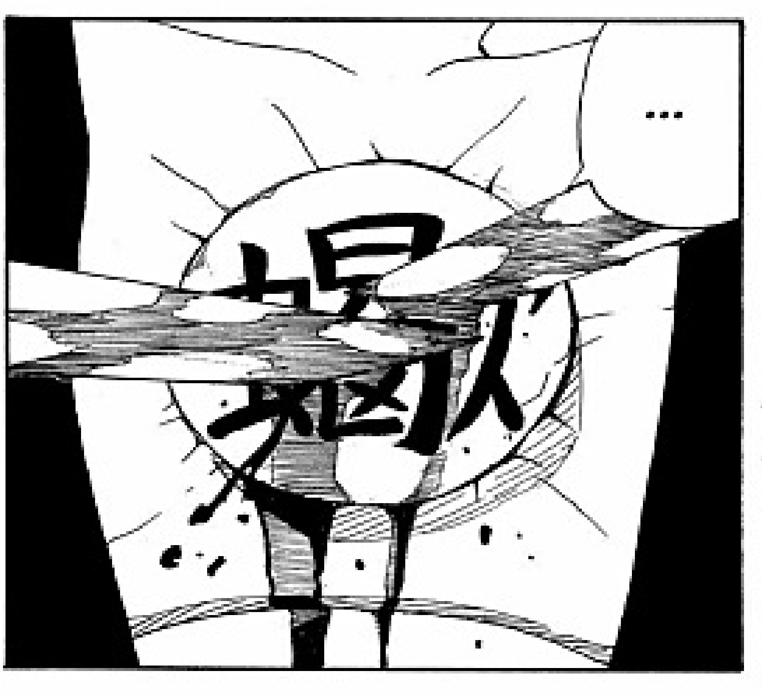

COUNTLESS PEOPLE CAN BE CREATED WITH PUPPETS...

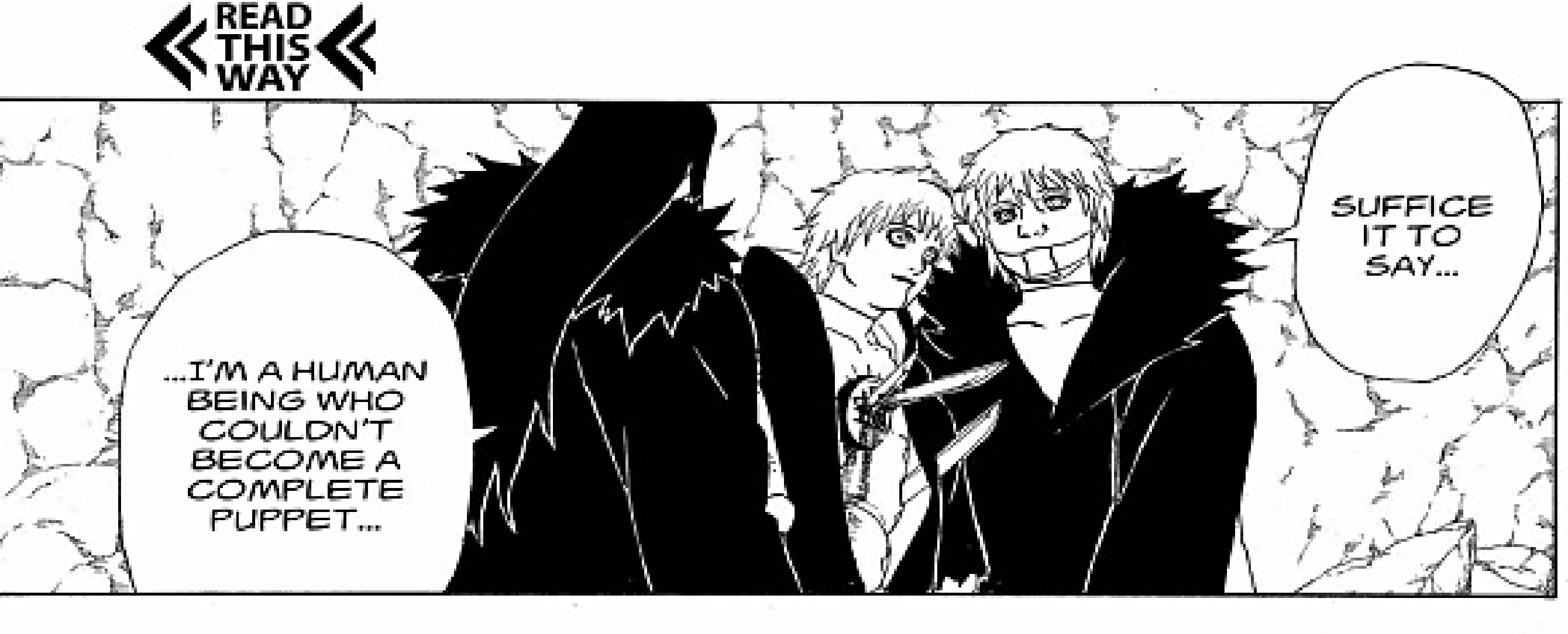
...BUT ONLY IF YOU WANT TO...

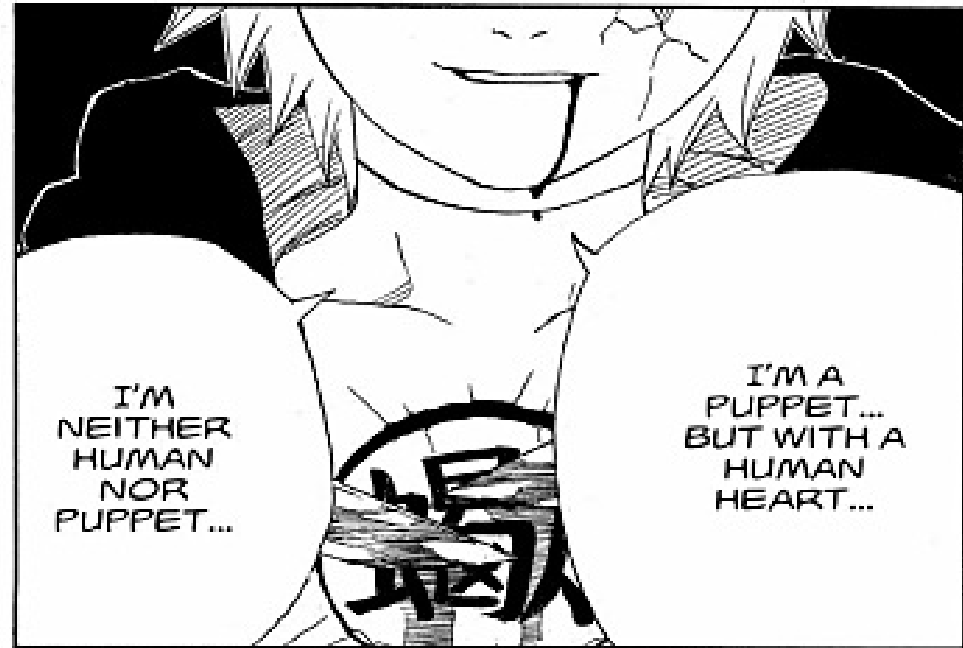


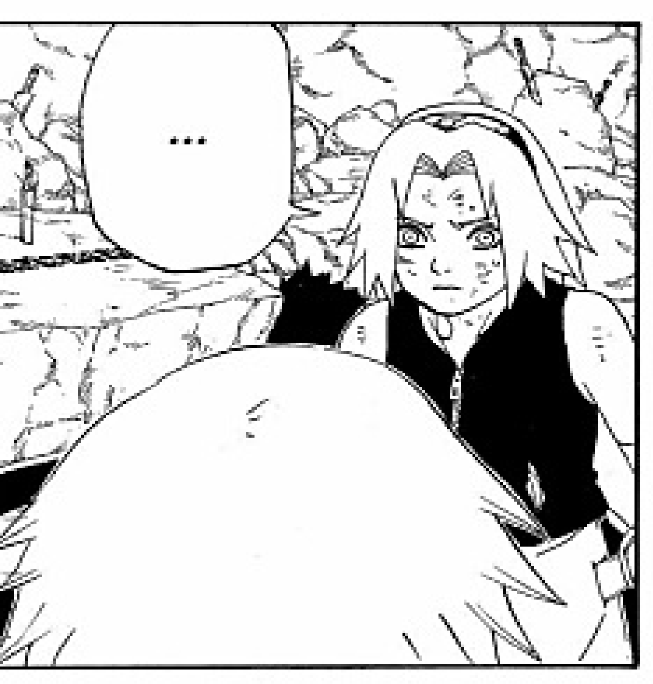




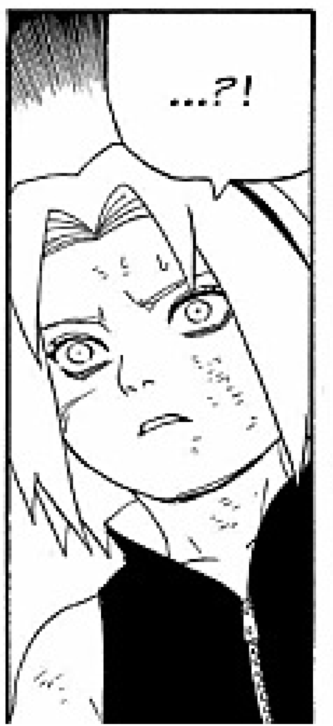



READ THIS WAY
SUFFICE IT TO SAY...
...I'M A HUMAN BEING WHO COULDN'T BECOME A COMPLETE PUPPET...


I'M A PUPPET... BUT WITH A HUMAN HEART...
I'M NEITHER HUMAN NOR PUPPET...


...


THE END IS NEAR.
BUT FIRST, I'LL DO SOMETHING POINTLESS TOO...
A REWARD... FOR DEFEATING ME.


...?!

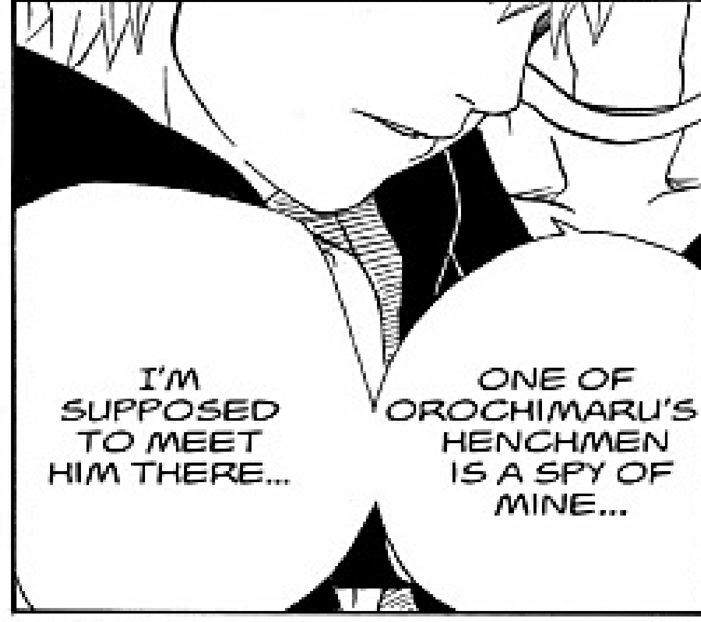

...



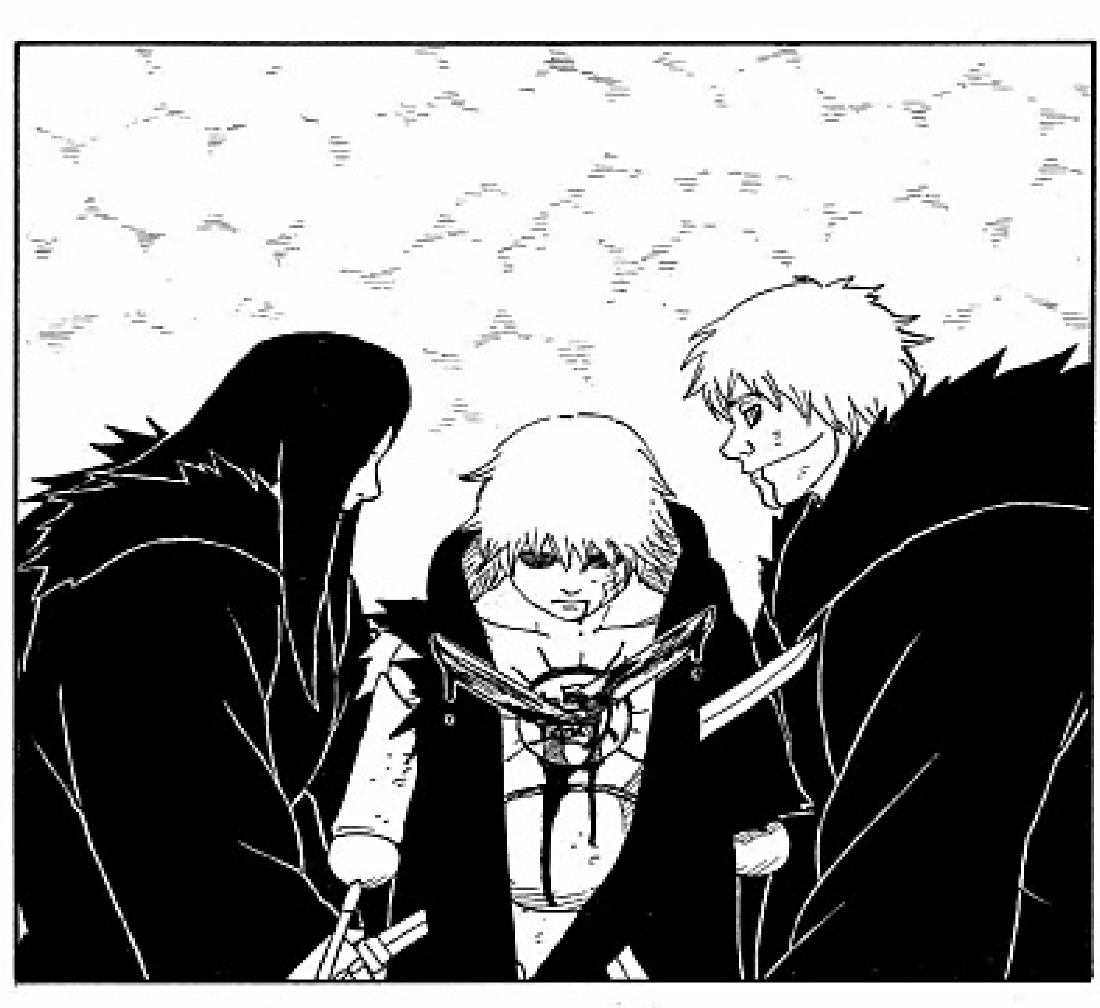

YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT OROCHIMARU, DIDN'T YOU?

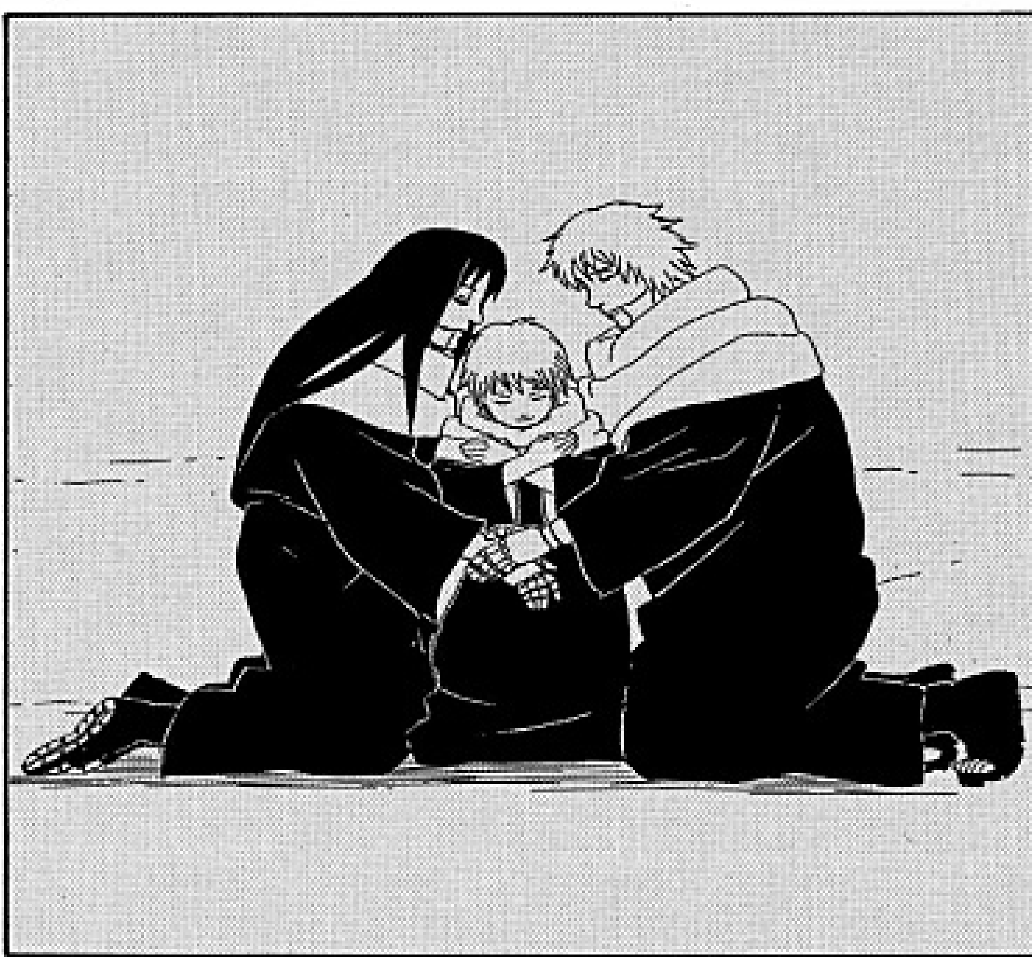

...GO TO THE TENCHI BRIDGE IN THE HIDDEN GRASS VILLAGE...
...TEN DAYS FROM NOW AT NOON...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

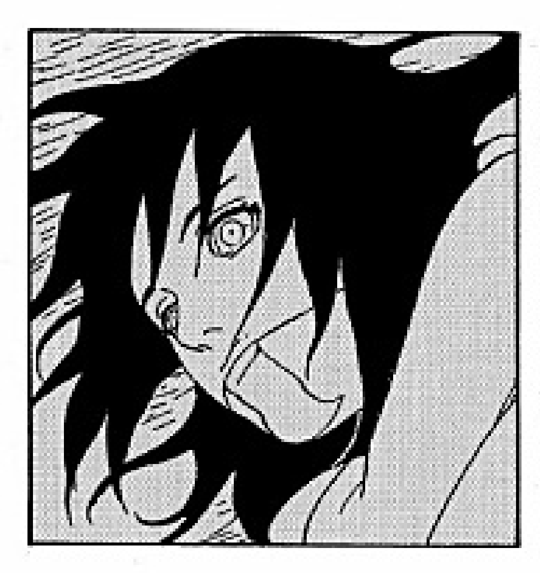
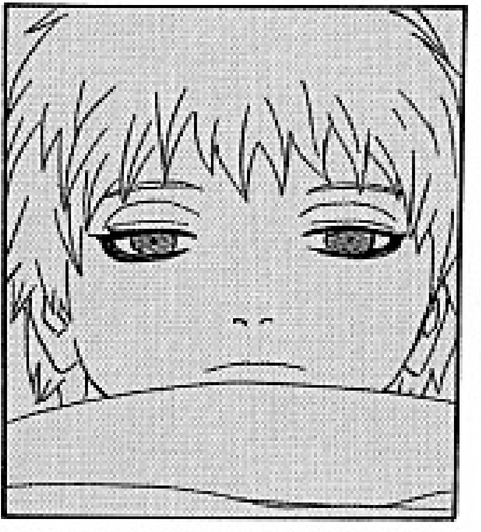

ONE OF OROCHIMARU'S HENCHMEN IS A SPY OF MINE...
I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HIM THERE...

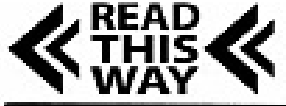

...!

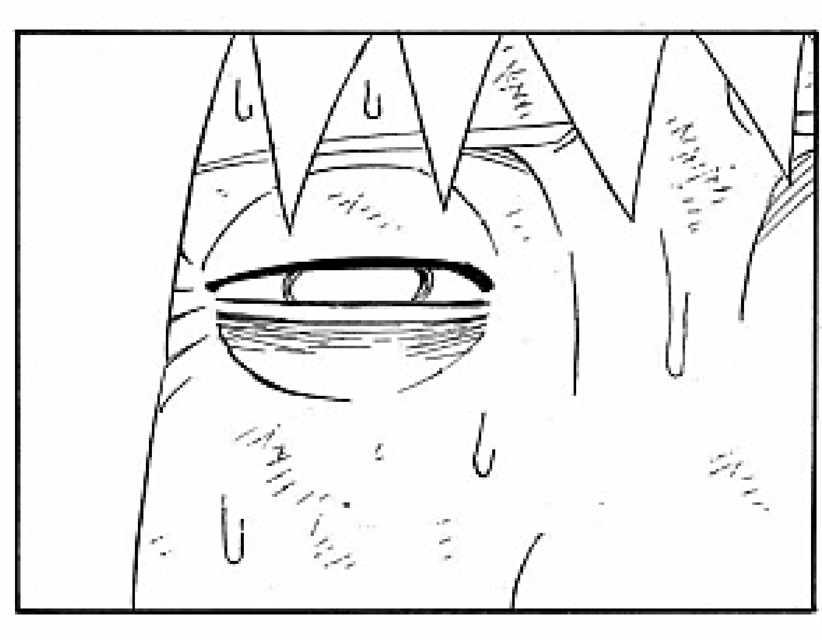

READ
THIS
WAY


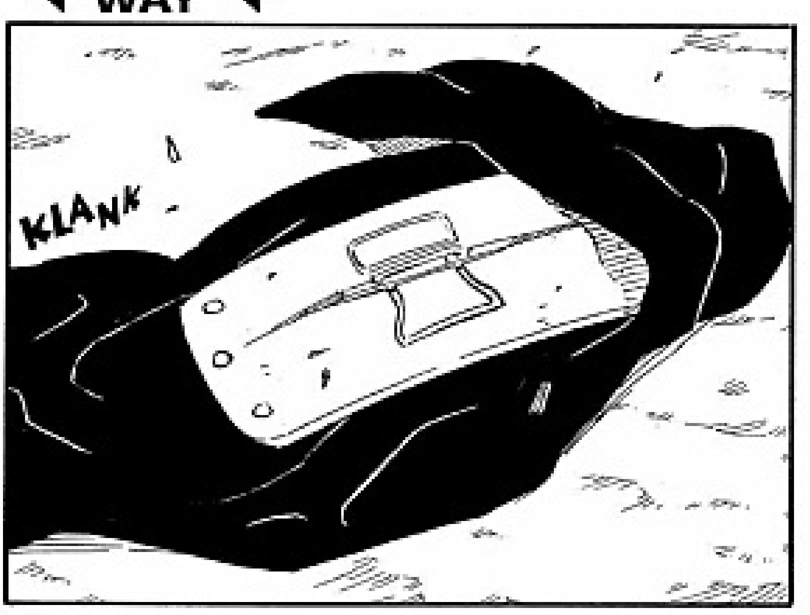
...


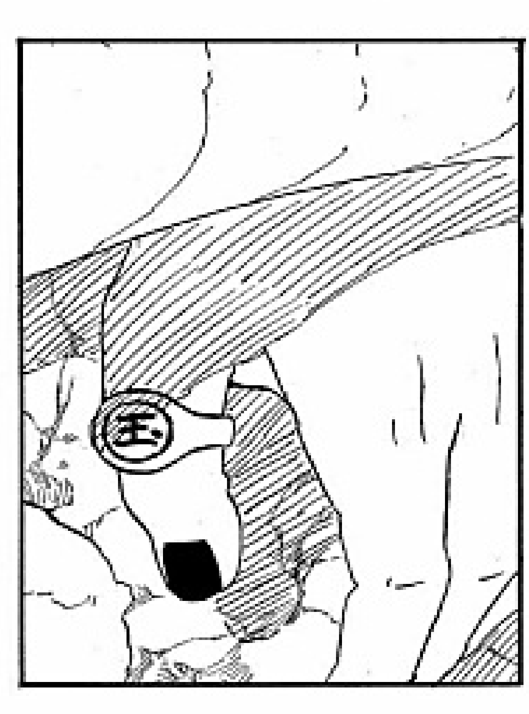
CREAK



READ THIS WAY

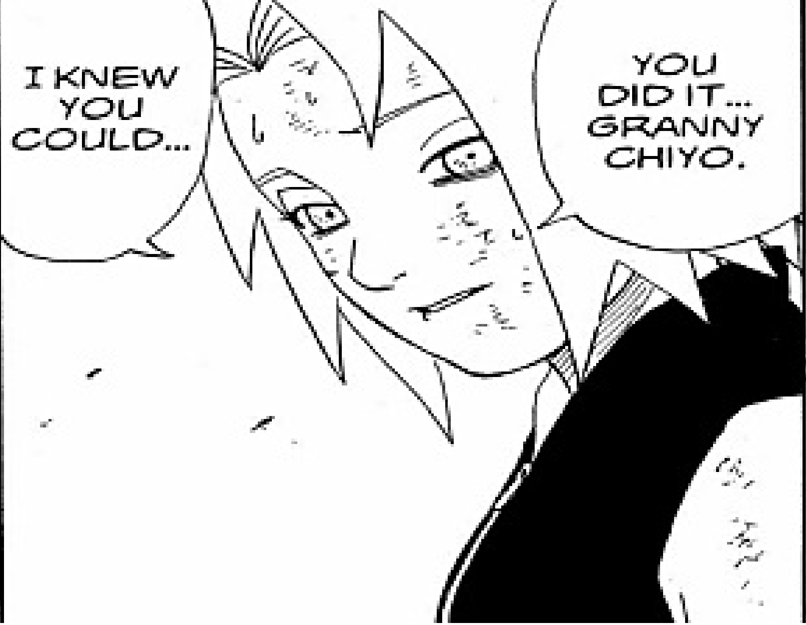



KLANK

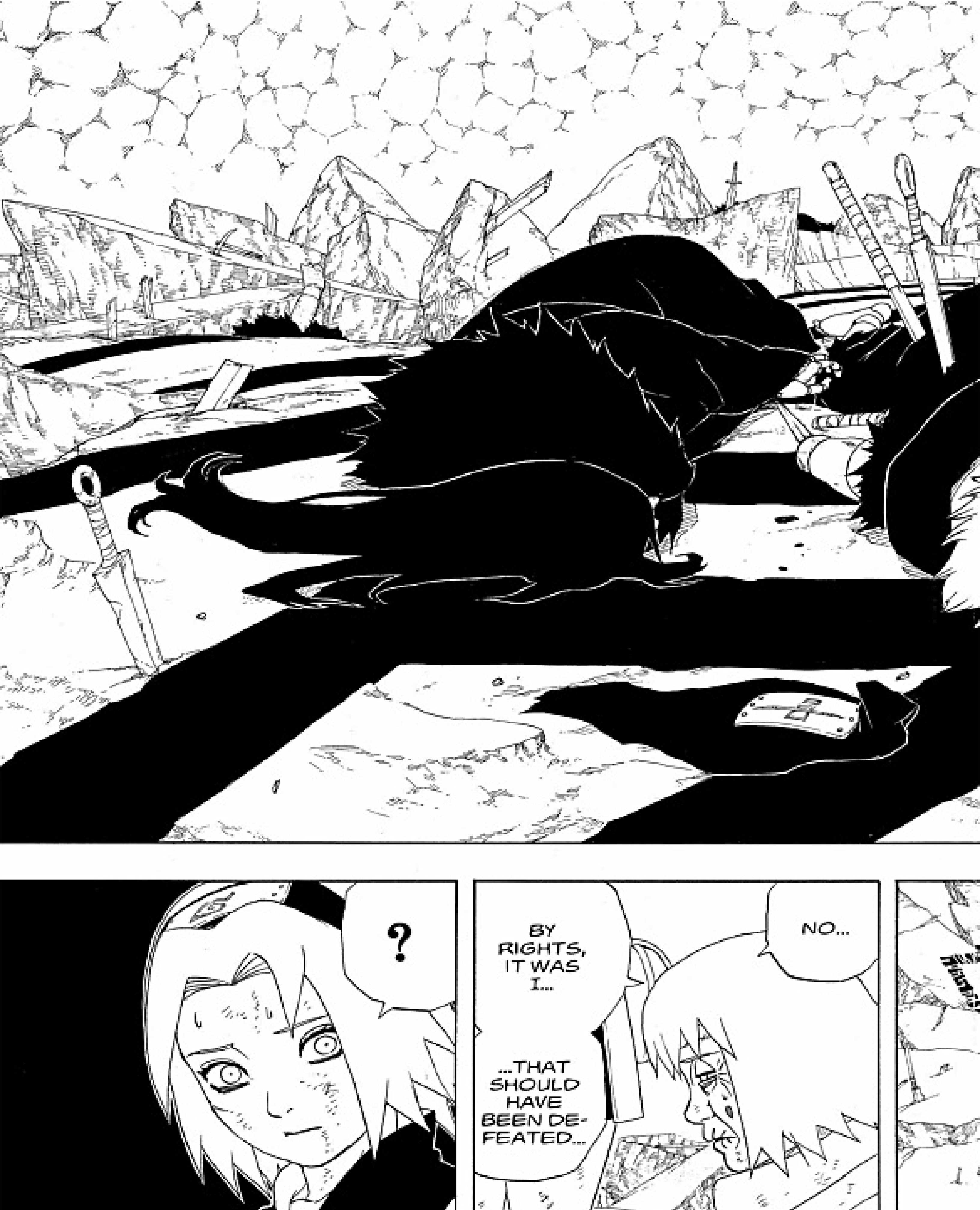







YOU DID IT... GRANNY CHIYO.
I KNEW YOU COULD...


...


NO...
BY RIGHTS, IT WAS I...
...THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DE-FEATED...
?



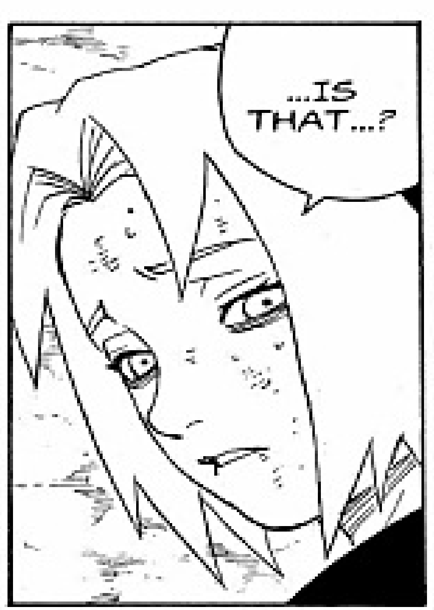
SASORI ANTICIPATED MY FINAL ATTACK...

BUT... FOR SOME REASON HE COULDN'T DODGE IT.

HE WAS OFF GUARD FOR A MOMENT...

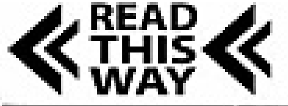


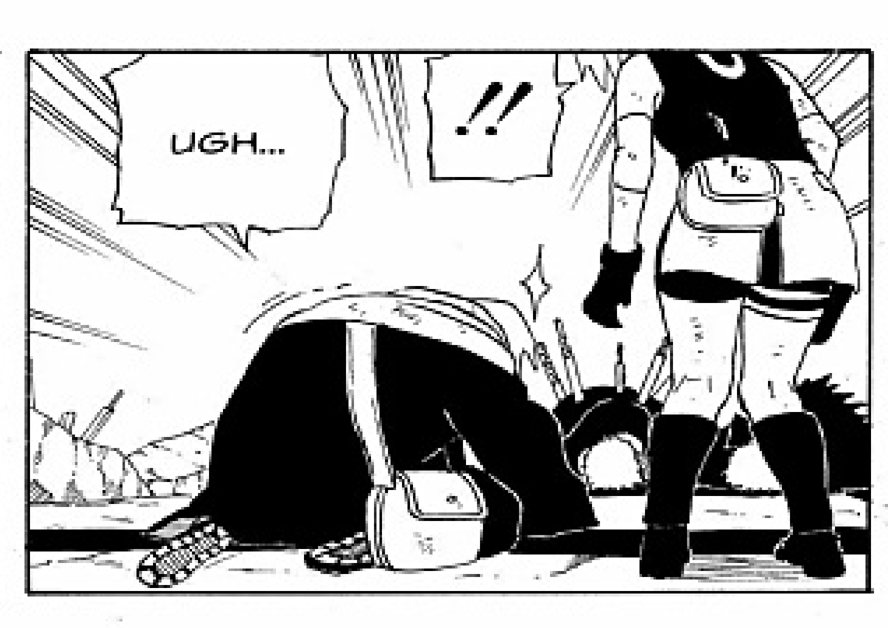




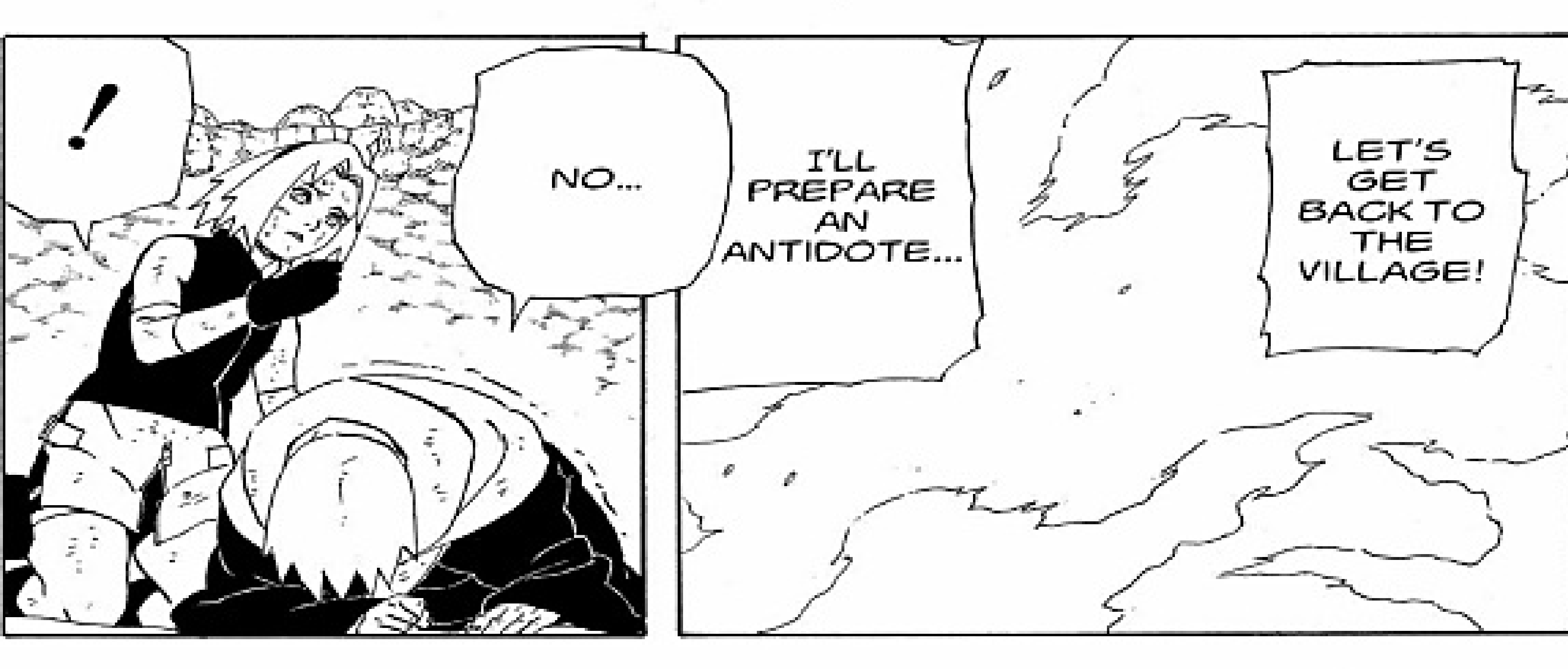


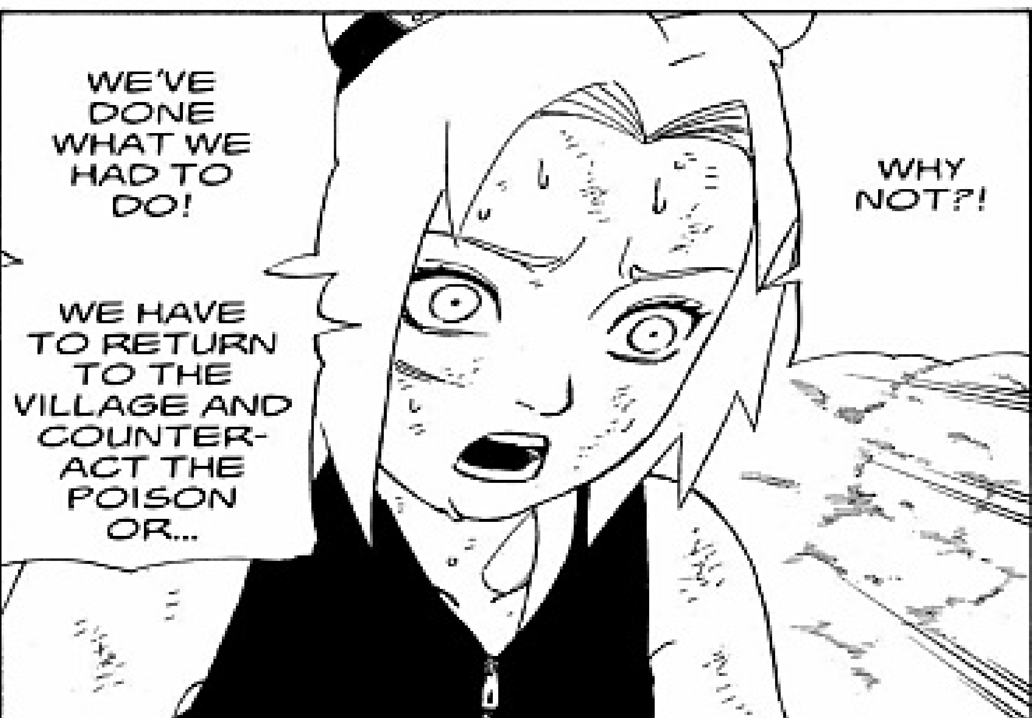



READ THIS WAY


!!
UGH...


!
GRANNY CHIYO!

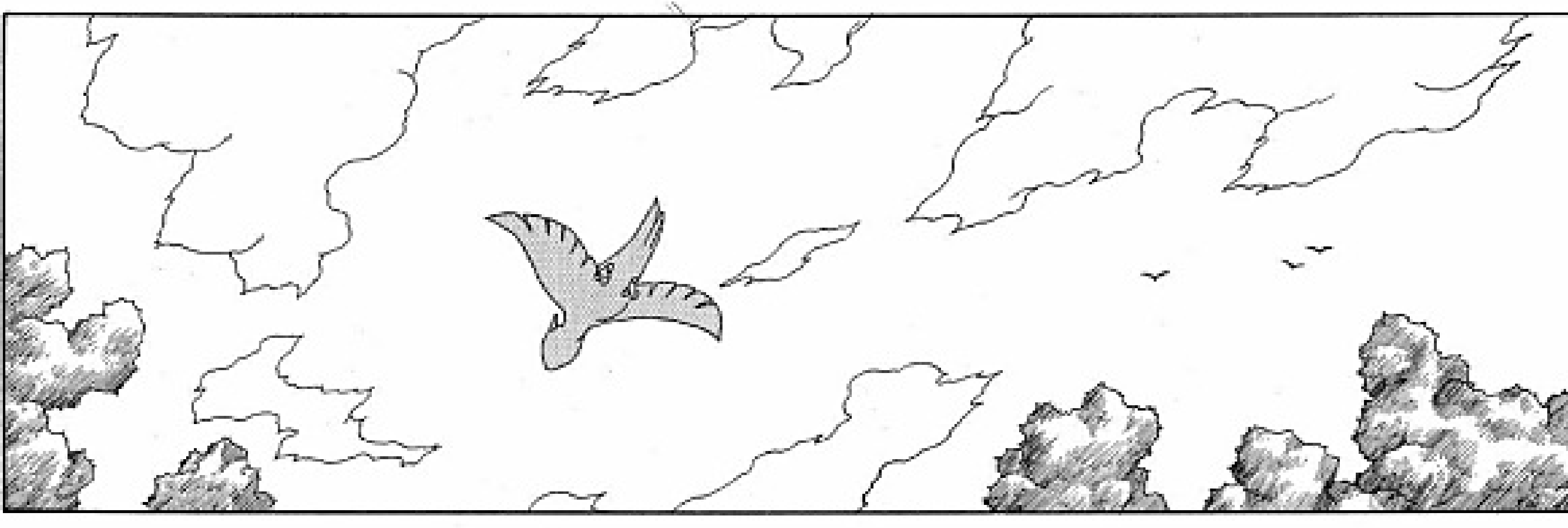

LET'S GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE!
I'LL PREPARE AN ANTIDOTE...
NO...
!

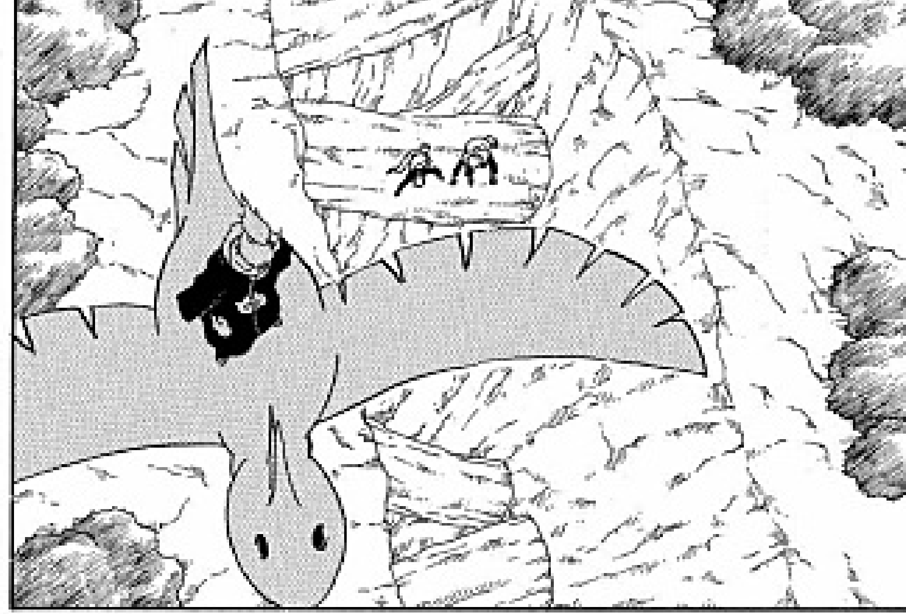

WHY NOT?!
WE'VE DONE WHAT WE HAD TO DO!
WE HAVE TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE AND COUNTER-ACT THE POISON OR...

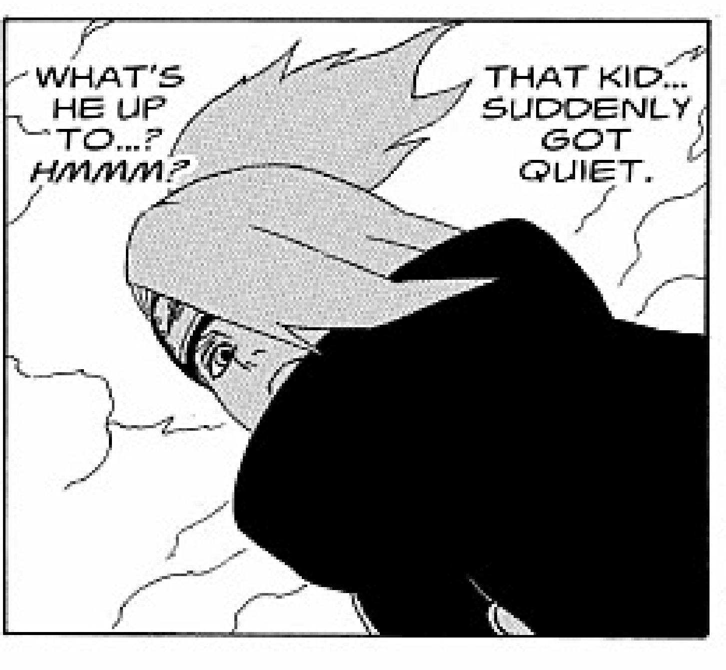

INSTEAD OF THAT...
SHF
HUF
HUF

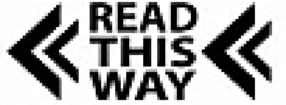
...THERE'S STILL...

...SOMETHING I MUST DO...









MASTER KAKASHI... NOT YET?!

BE PATIENT...

I DON'T HAVE AS MUCH CHAKRA AS YOU...

IT TAKES ME A LITTLE LONGER... BUT...

I'M JUST ABOUT READY.

LET'S GO, NARUTO!

SHF


NARUTO


Number 276: New Sharingan!!

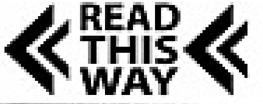


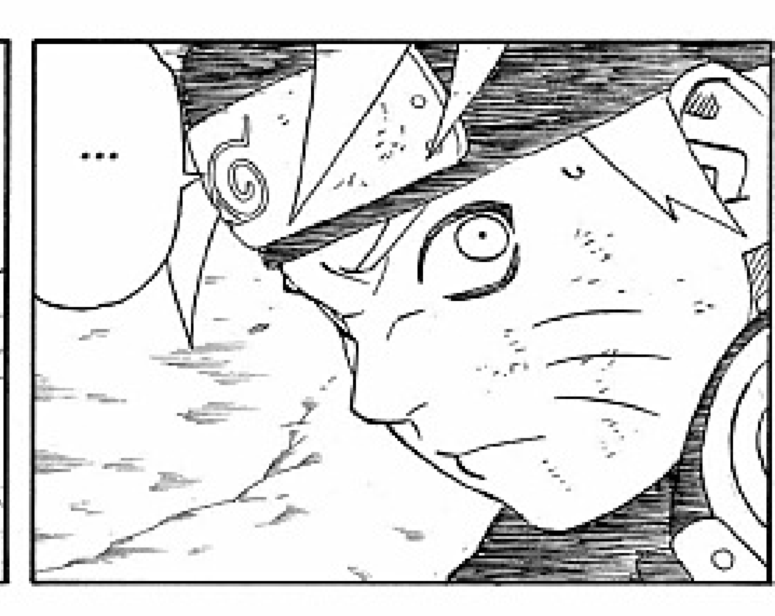
IS THAT...
...WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT...?





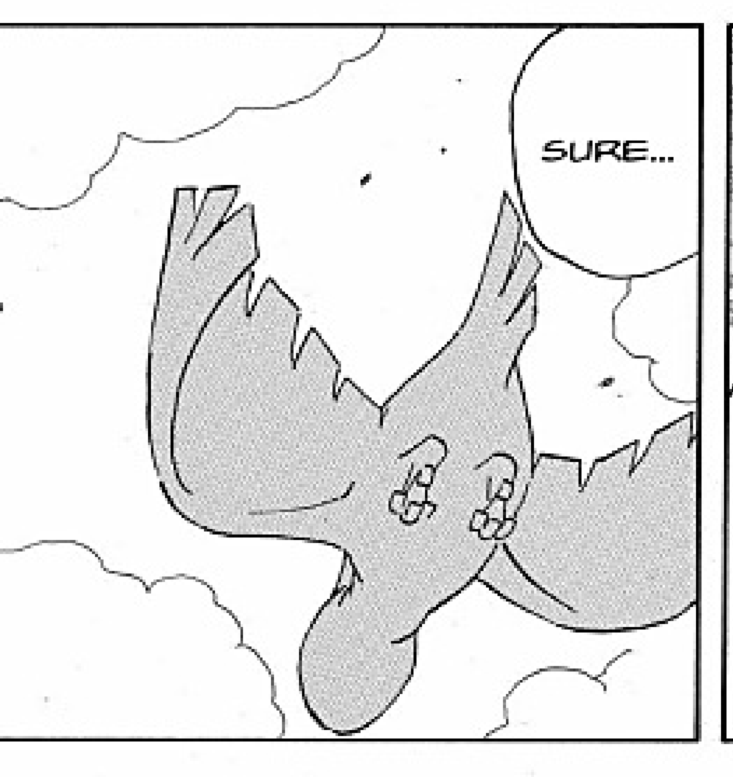
SHOOM
YUP.
A NEW SHARINGAN.


READ THIS WAY


...

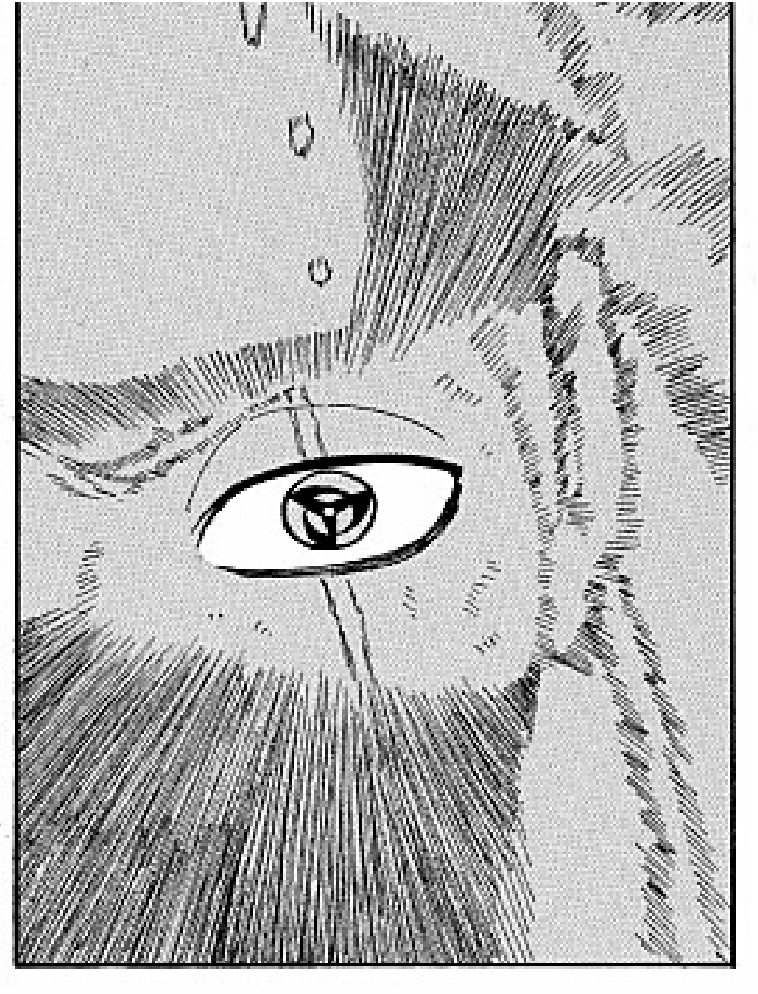

...
WHAT?


MASTER KAKASHI... IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T...
I'LL FINISH THIS OFF!!

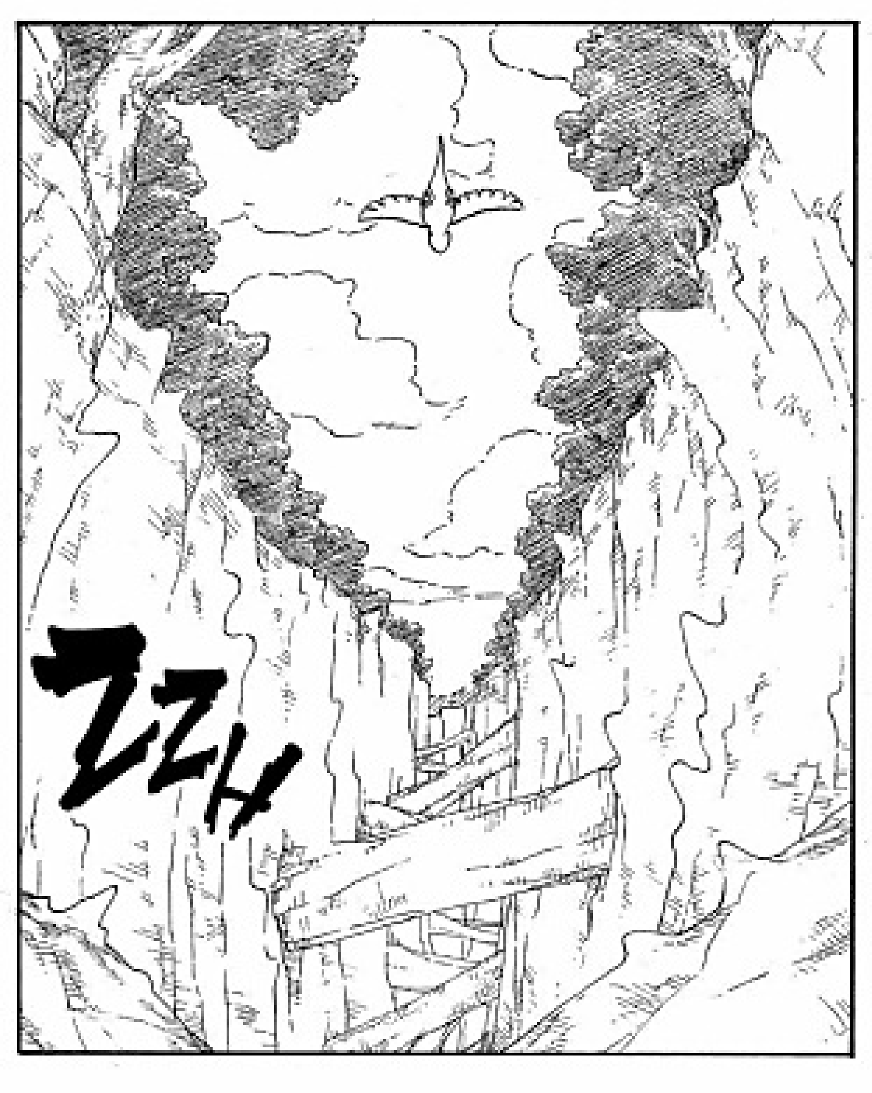

SURE...

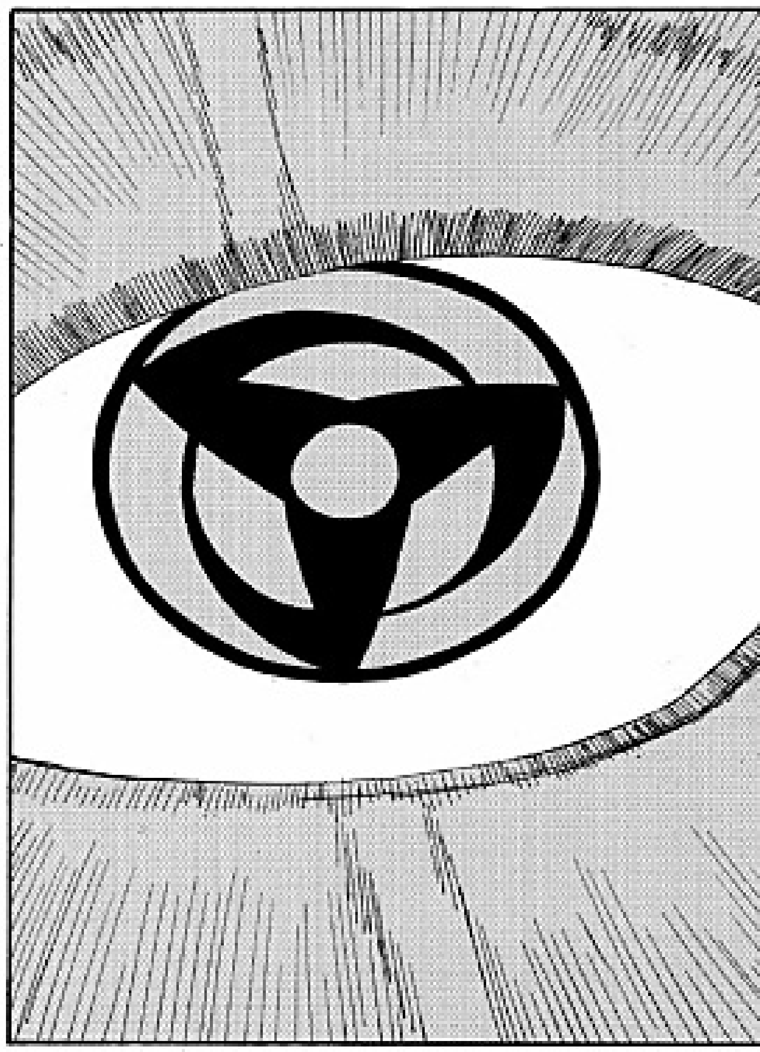

IF YOU GET THE CHANCE...


...YEAH!
TAK

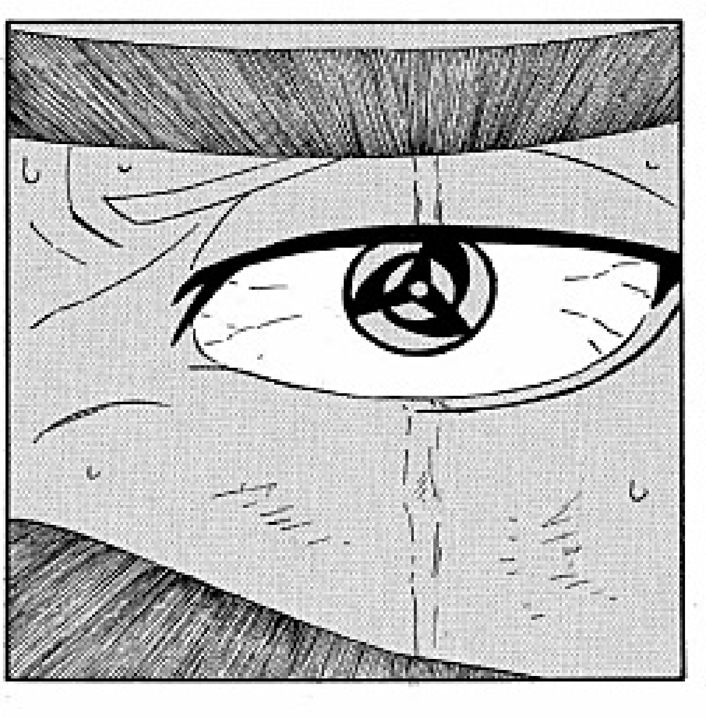



MANGEKYO SHARINGAN !!


ZZH

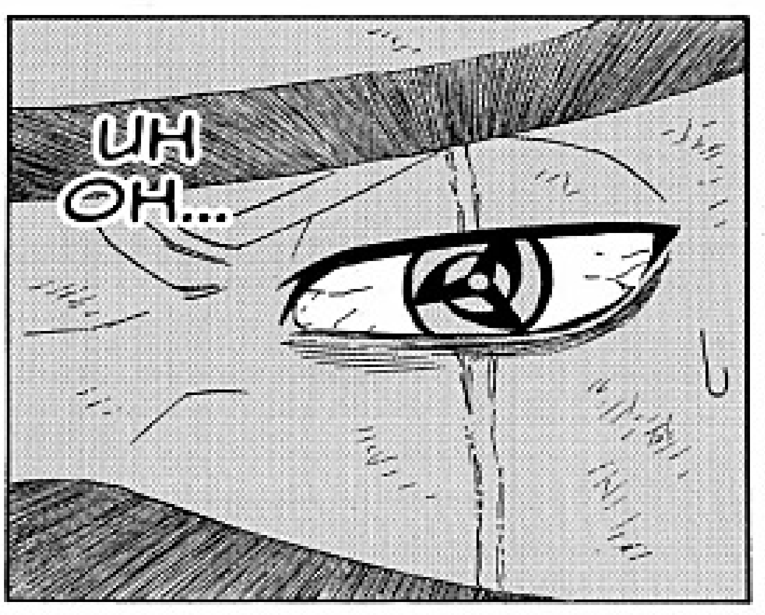


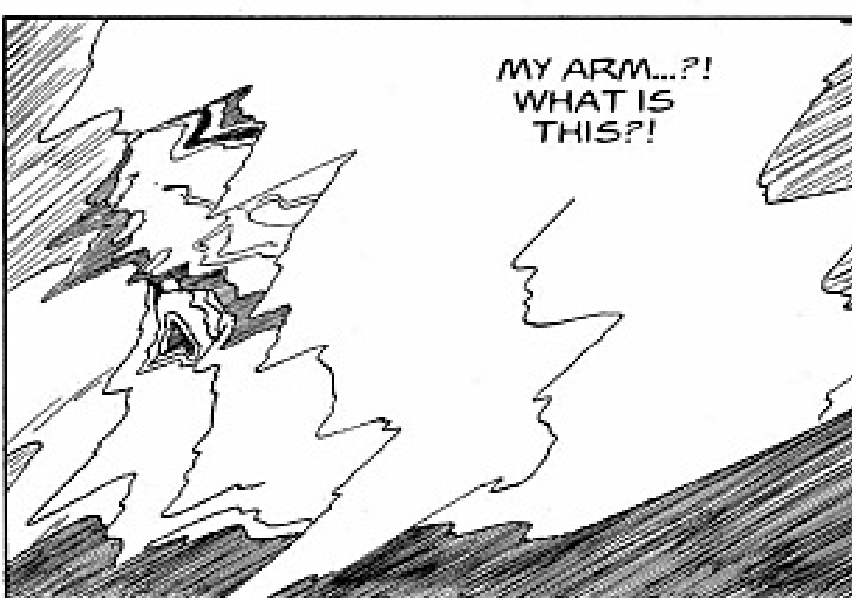

ZZZH ZHZH
WHAT... IS THIS?!
?!
ZZH
!
ZZH






OCULAR JUTSU...?! OH, NO!
FWAP
ZZZH
WOW. THIS JUTSU IS... AWE-SOME...!


UH OH...


MY ARM...?! WHAT IS THIS?!


SPLAK
AAARGH!
UGH...
ZZZH ZHZH


I MISSED...
I CAN'T PROPERLY CONTROL THE POSITION AND SIZE OF THE BARRIER SPACE.
HUF
HUF
UNNH...
ZH
!!
GRRR
ZZZH

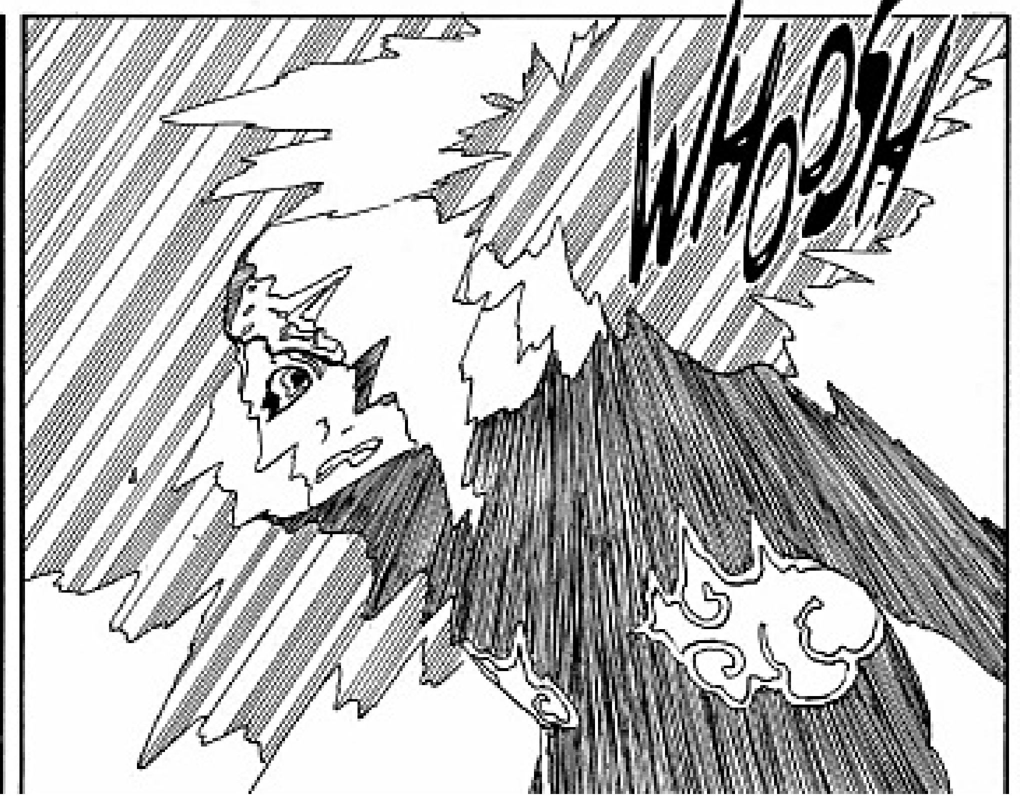


HUF

HUF

ZZH

!!





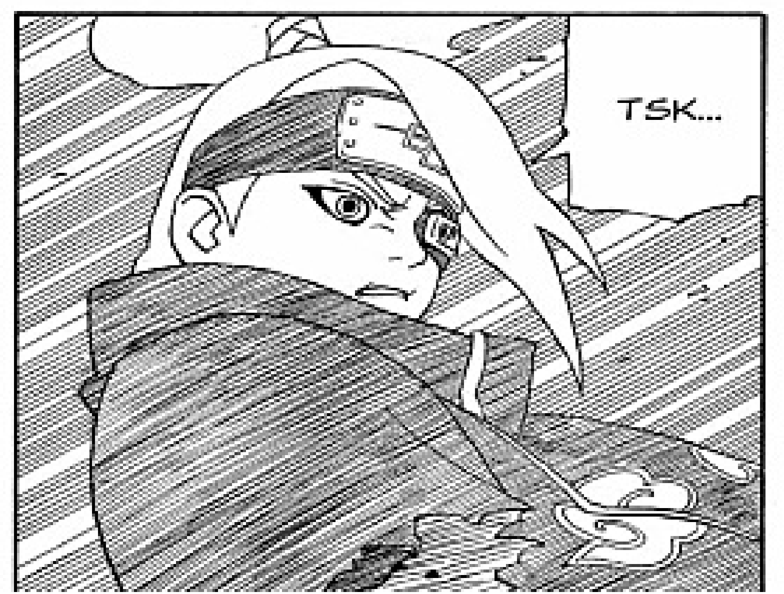

RASENGAN! SPIRAL CHAKRA SPHERE!!
!



WOOM

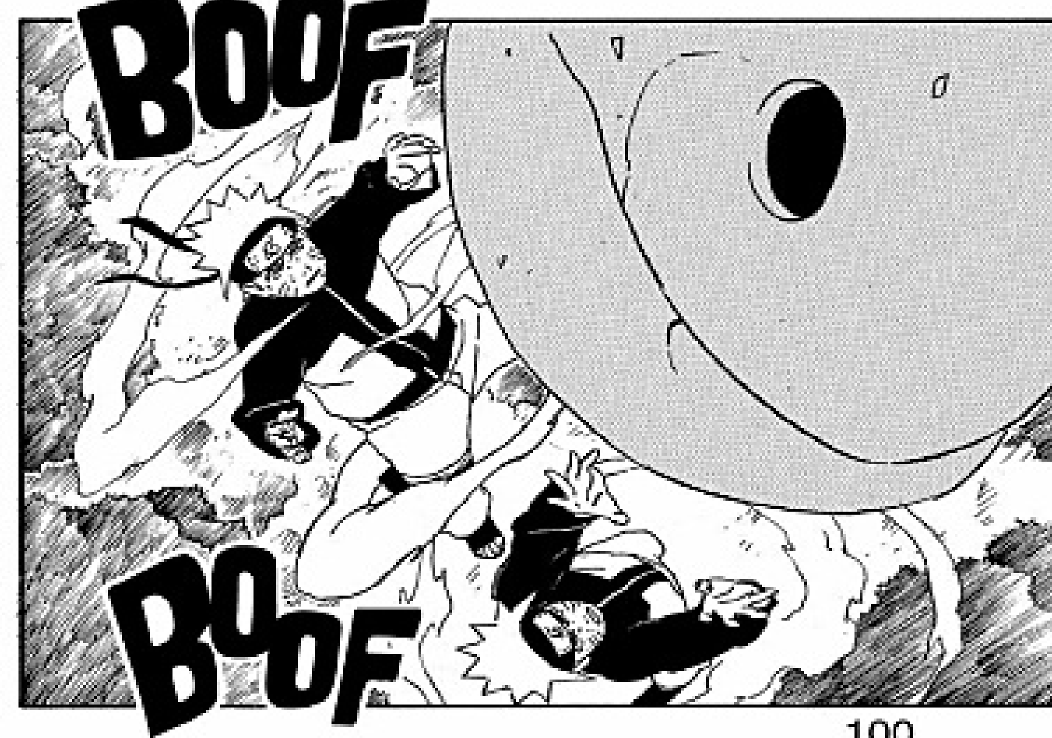
BOOM





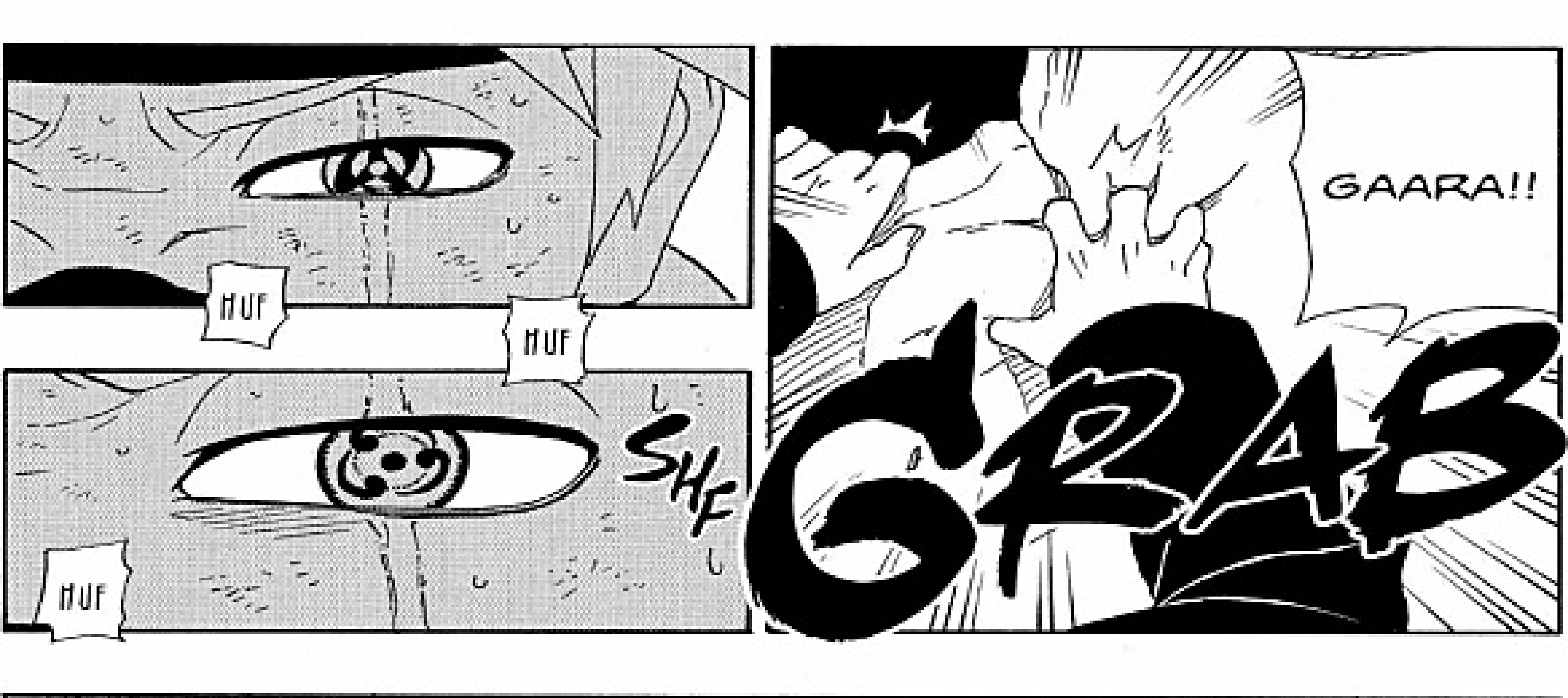
KAGEBUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPELGANGER!!





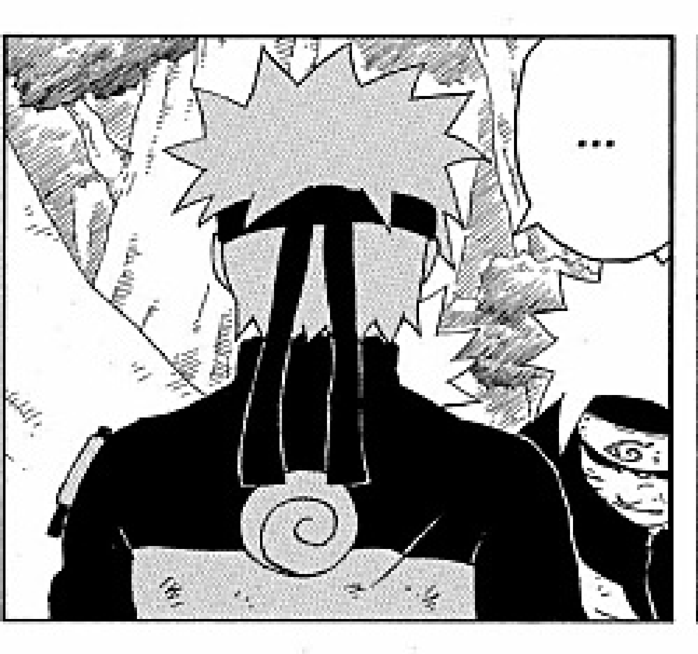

READ THIS WAY

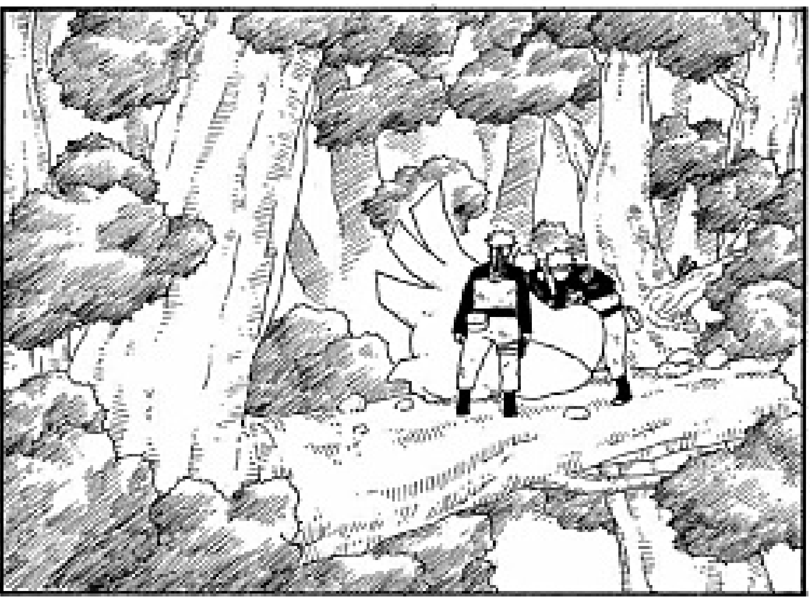

TAK


GAARA!!
GRAB
SHF
HUF
HUF
HUF


MASTER KAKASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
RUSTLE
YEAH... I THINK SO...

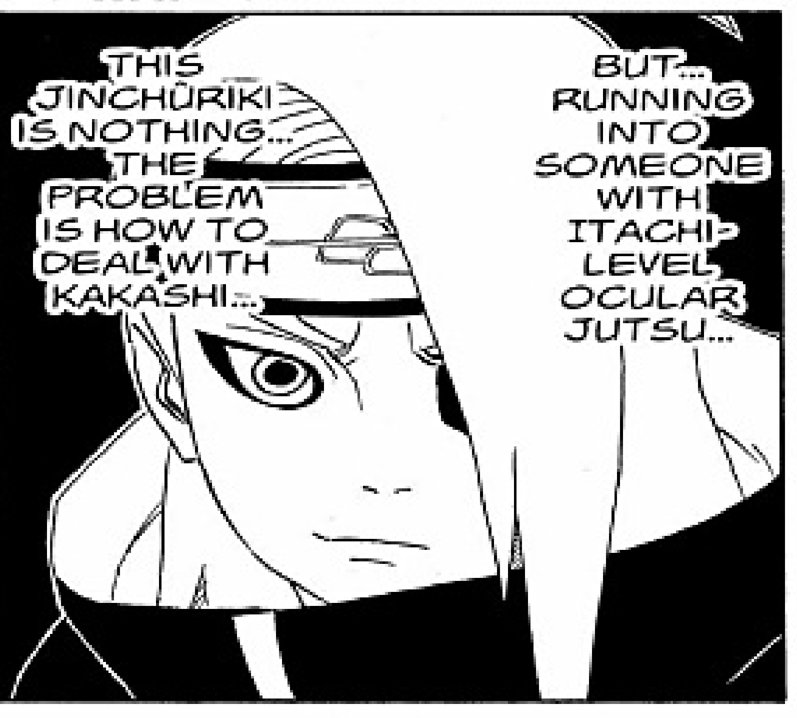


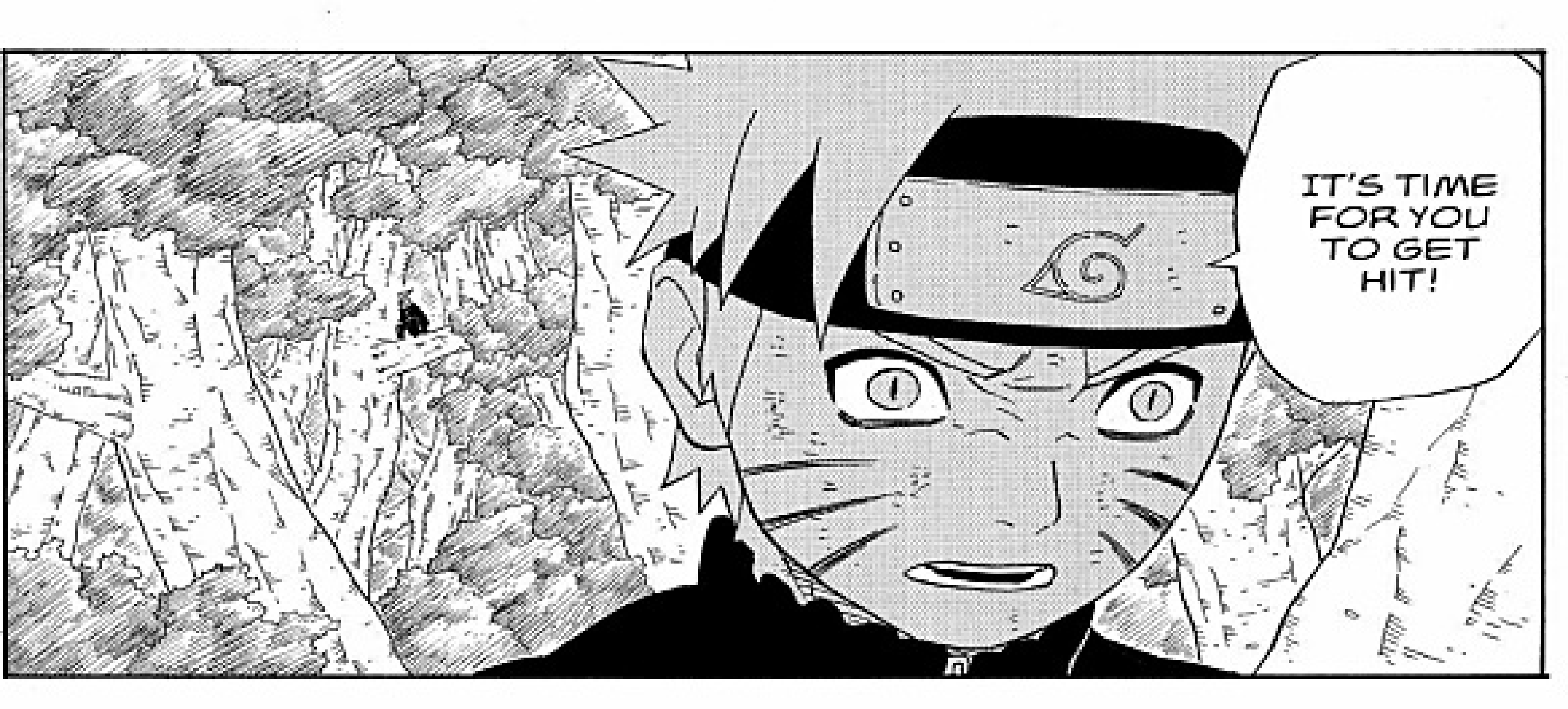


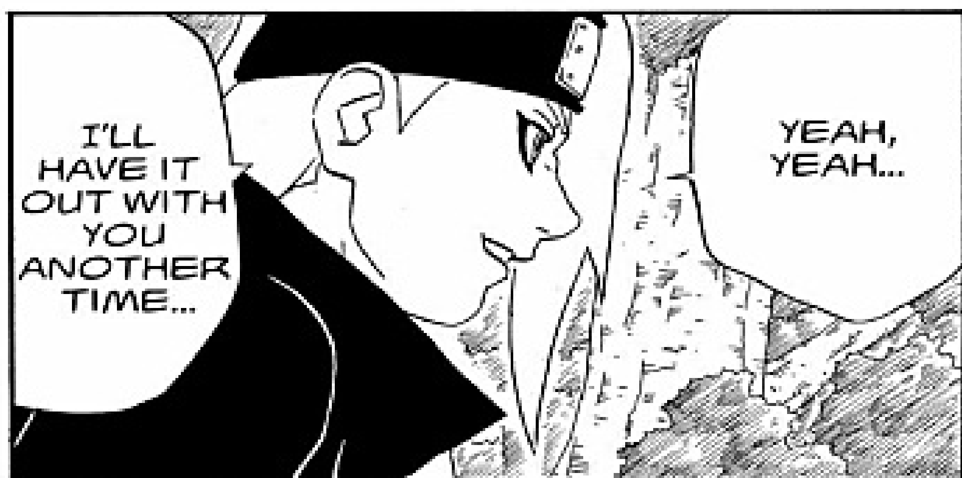



READ THIS WAY

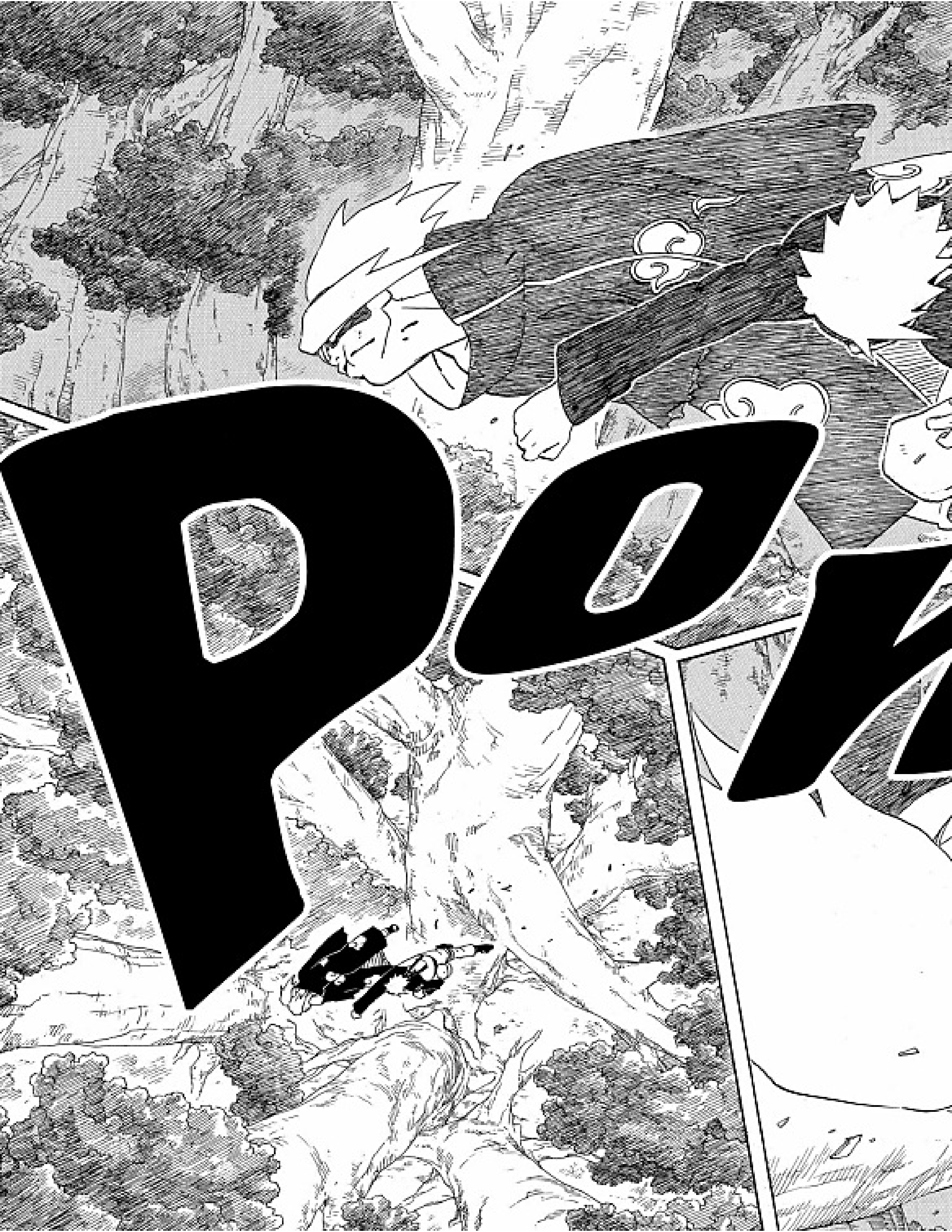

MY RIGHT ARM TOO... I CAN'T USE JUTSU ANYMORE...
...IT'S COME TO THIS... HMMM?


BUT... RUNNING INTO SOMEONE WITH ITACHI-LEVEL OCULAR JUTSU...
THIS JINCHŪRIKI IS NOTHING... THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO DEAL WITH KAKASHI...


IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET HIT!

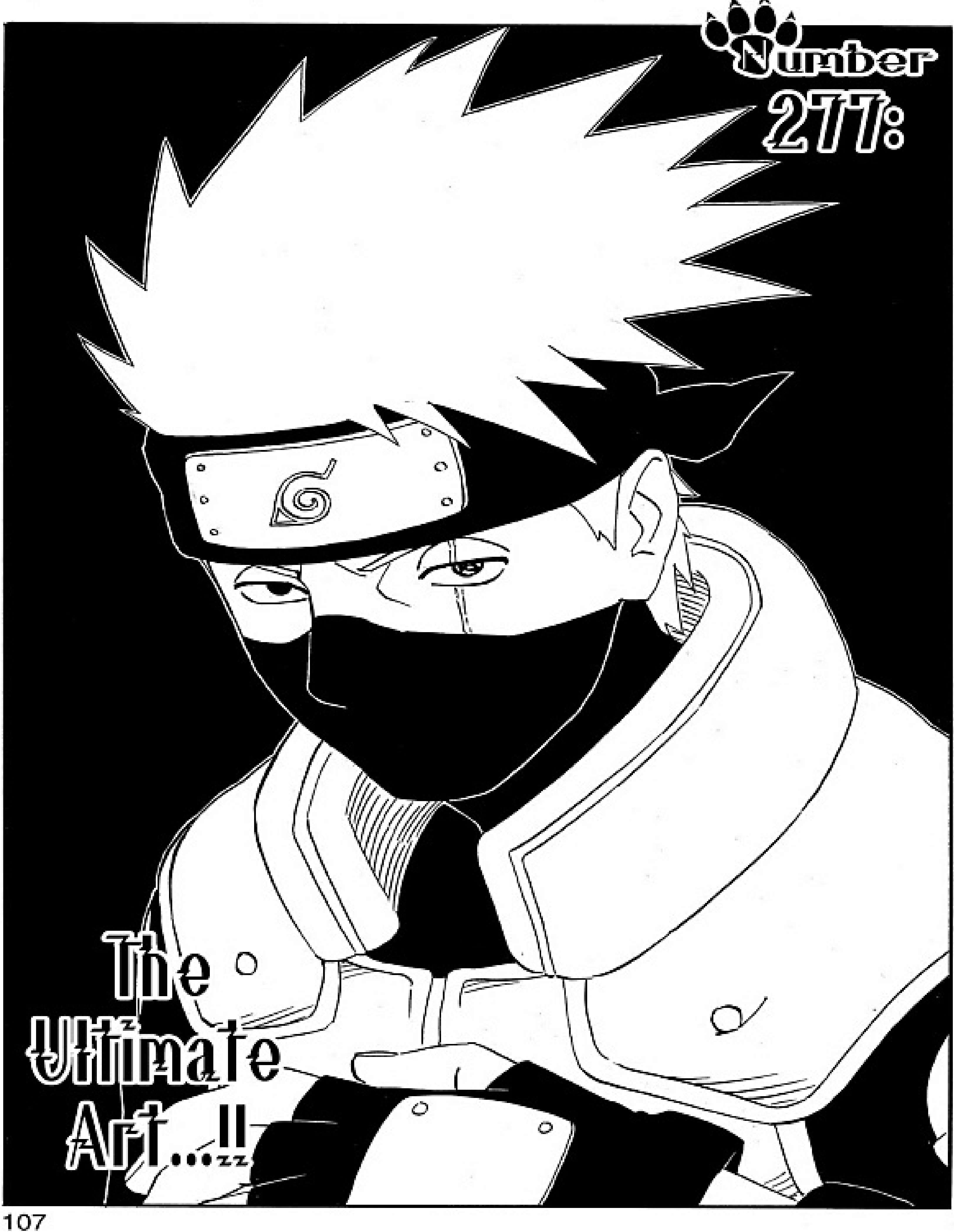

YEAH, YEAH...
I'LL HAVE IT OUT WITH YOU ANOTHER TIME...


YOU'RE TOO CARE-LESS...


PO

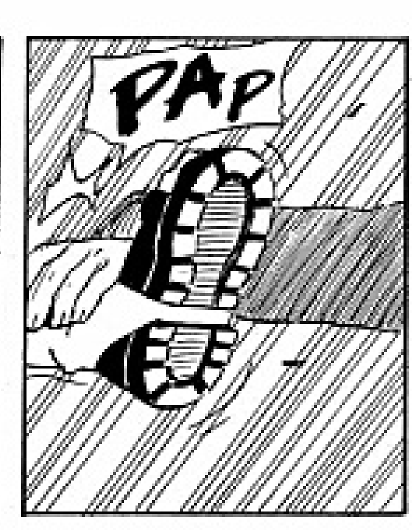


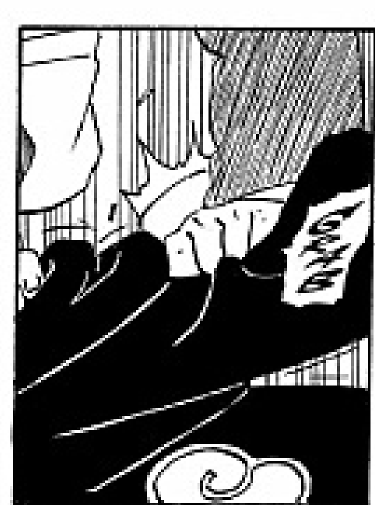



Number 277:
The Ultimate Art...!!


SHADOW DOPPELGANGER!!
FWOO
BOOF


READ
THIS
WAY

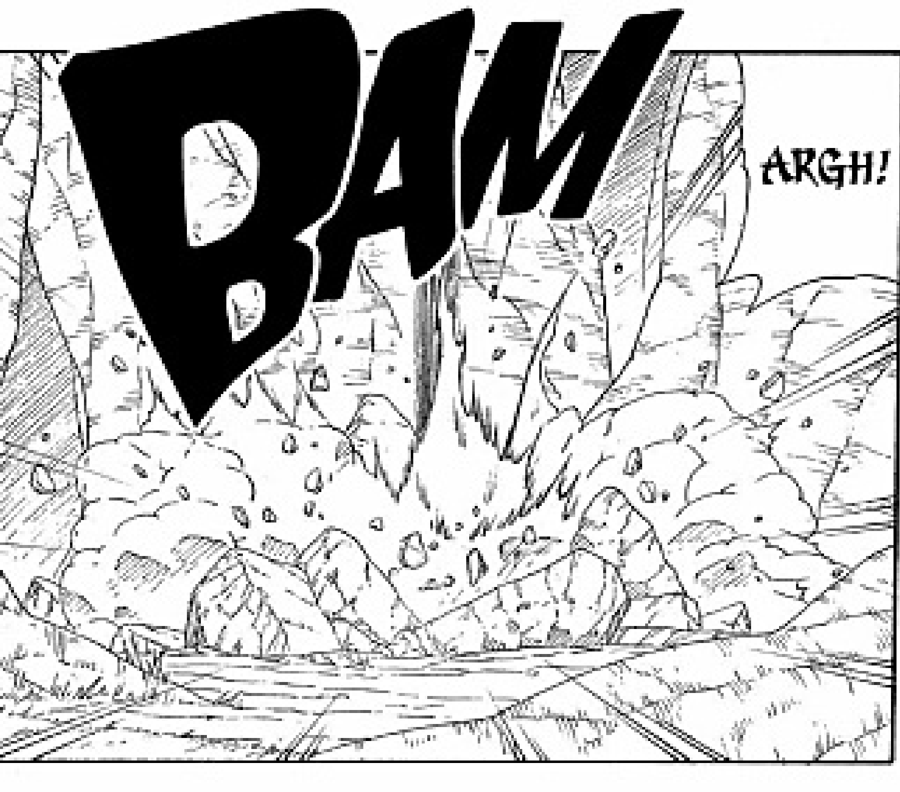

PAP




PAP


GRAB


WHOOO


BAM
ARGH!




SMASH
UGH...!
WHAM
GUF!!



THOK

NARUTO...


WHAM
!!

BOOF BOOF BOOF

CLAY...!

A SUBSTI-TUTION...?

GUB GUB GUB GUB





TWITCH

GRRRR

GUB GUB GUB

TAK

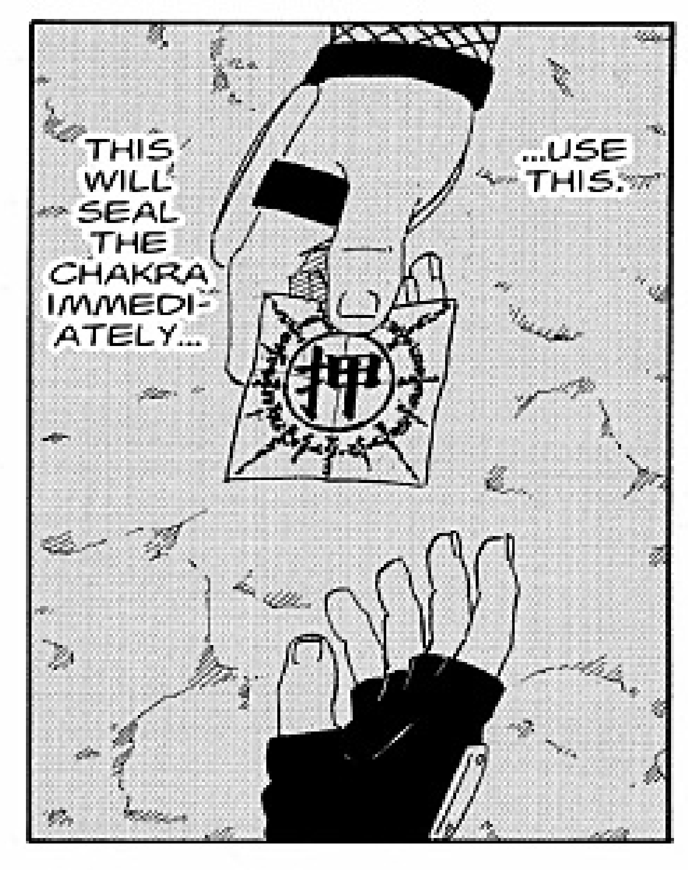


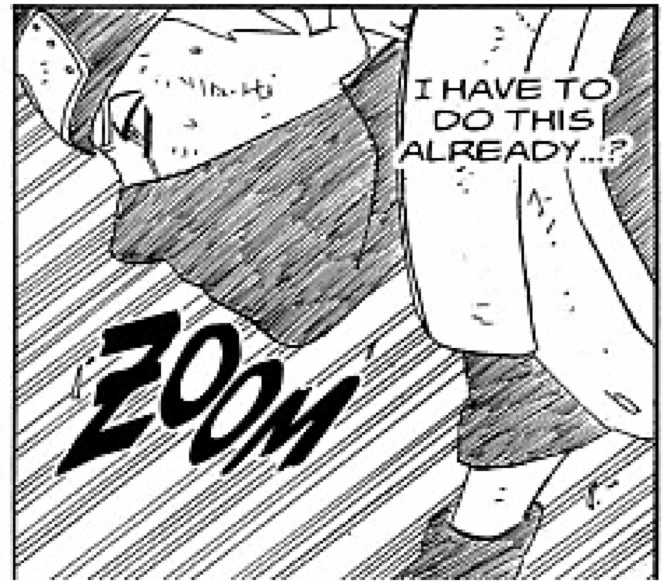
READ THIS WAY

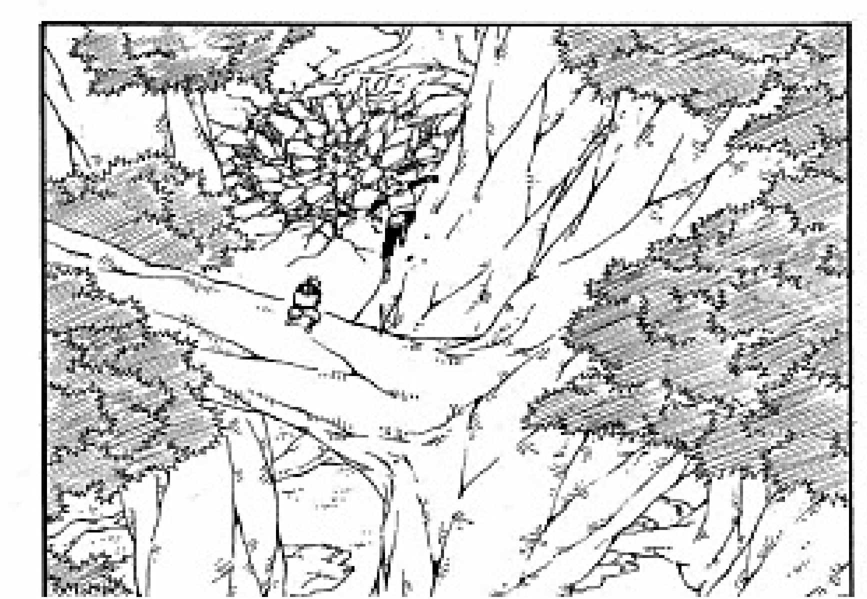


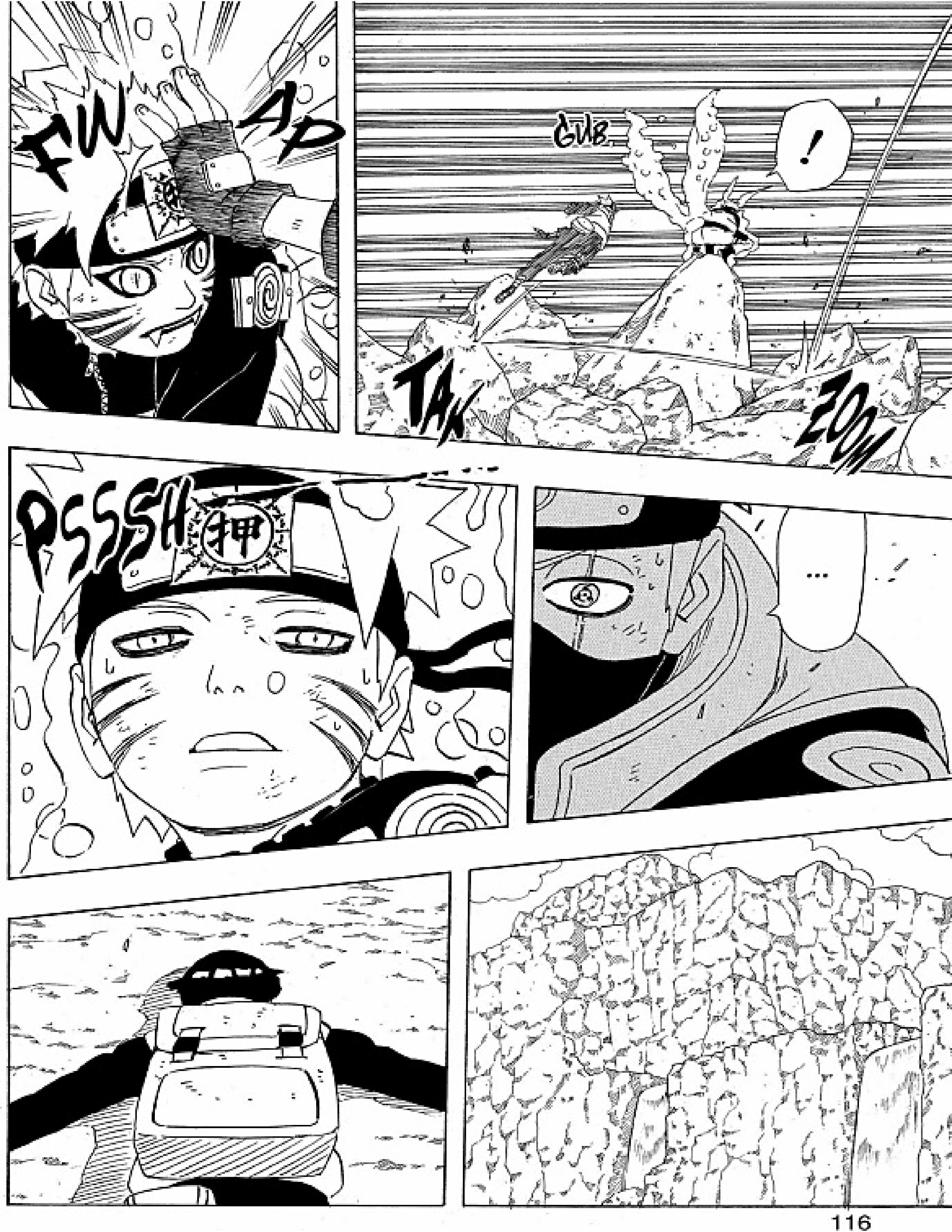


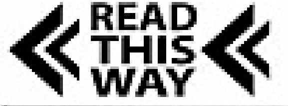


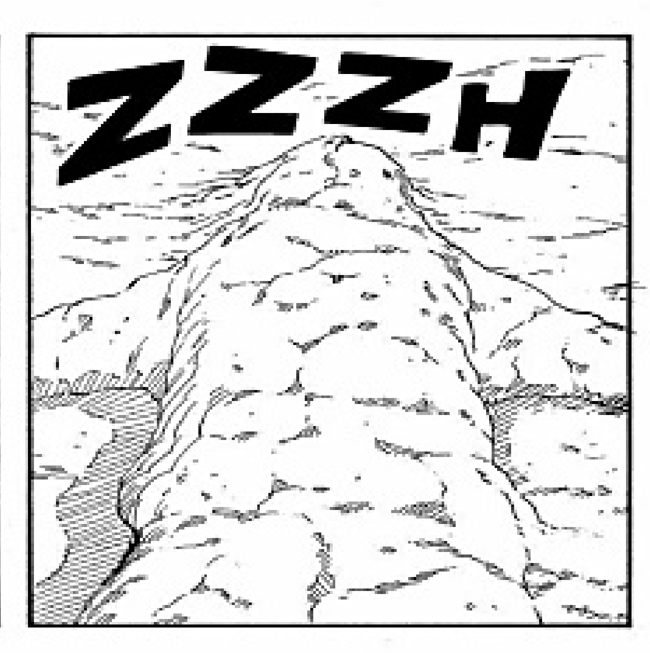




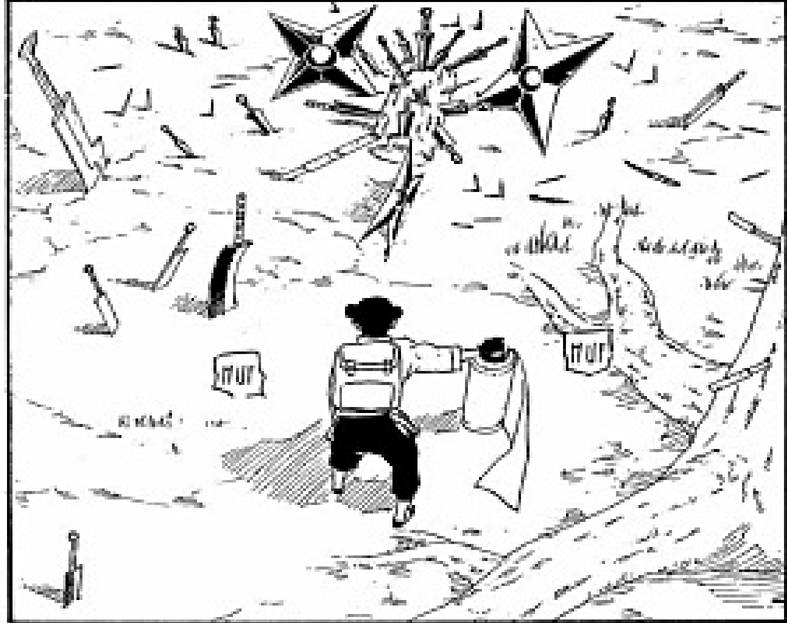


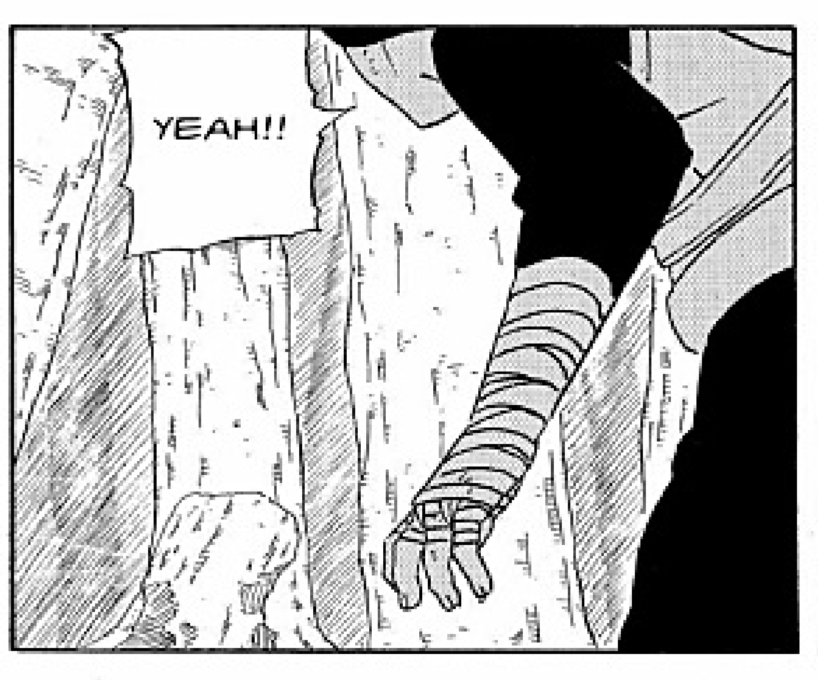

FWAP
GUB
!
TAK
ZOOM
PSSSH
押
...

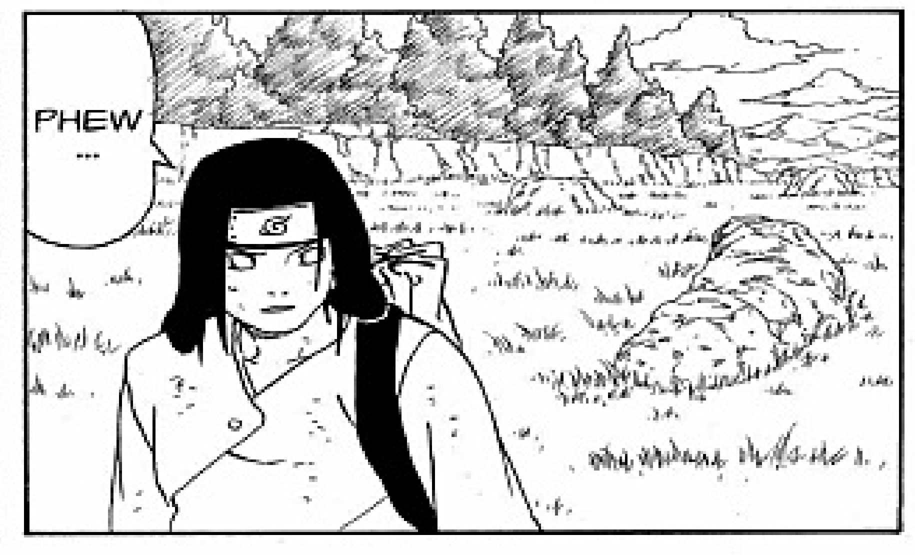

READ THIS WAY

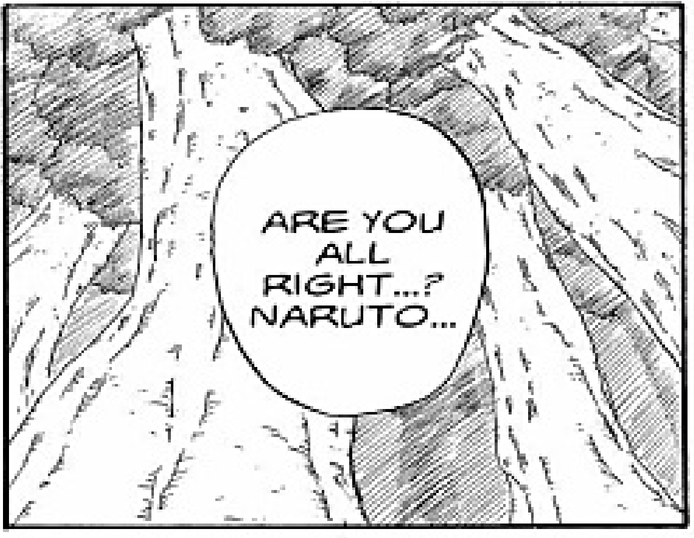

ZZZH


HE WAS STRONG ...
ALMOST A WORTHY FAKE ME...
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF


YEAH!!

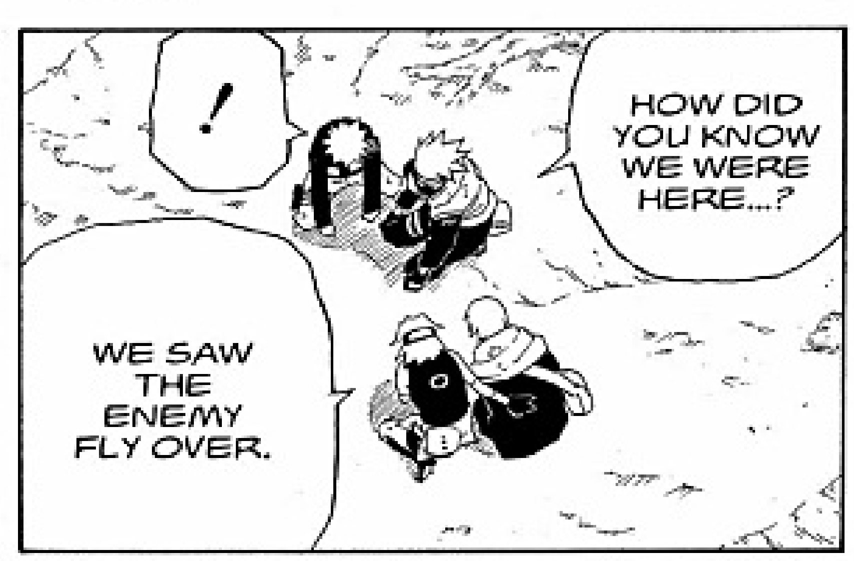

PHEW ...

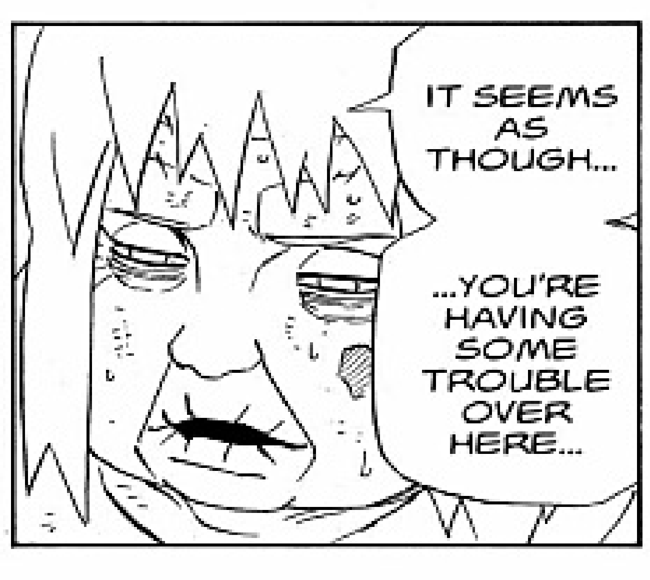

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...? NARUTO...

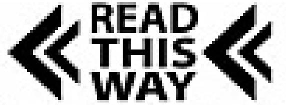

WHAT...DID JIRAIYA SEE...?
HUF
HUF


SHOOM
!

TAK
FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU...

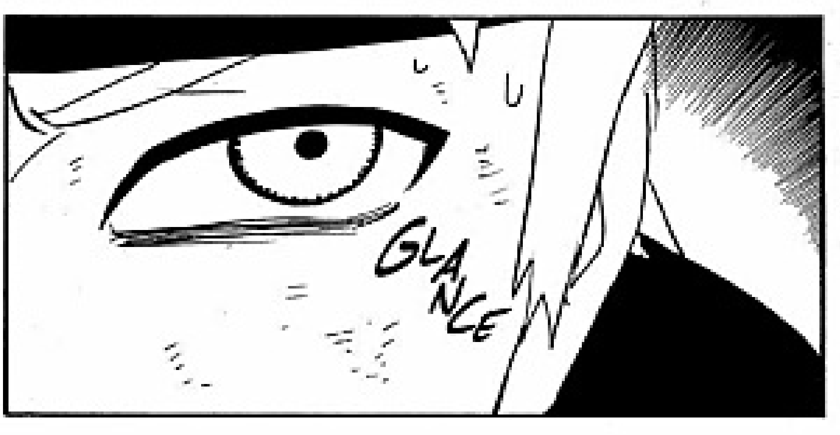

HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE...?
!
WE SAW THE ENEMY FLY OVER.


IT SEEMS AS THOUGH...
...YOU'RE HAVING SOME TROUBLE OVER HERE...


READ THIS WAY


SAKURA...
YOU GUYS DID IT...


YES... BUT...
WHERE'S GAARA?

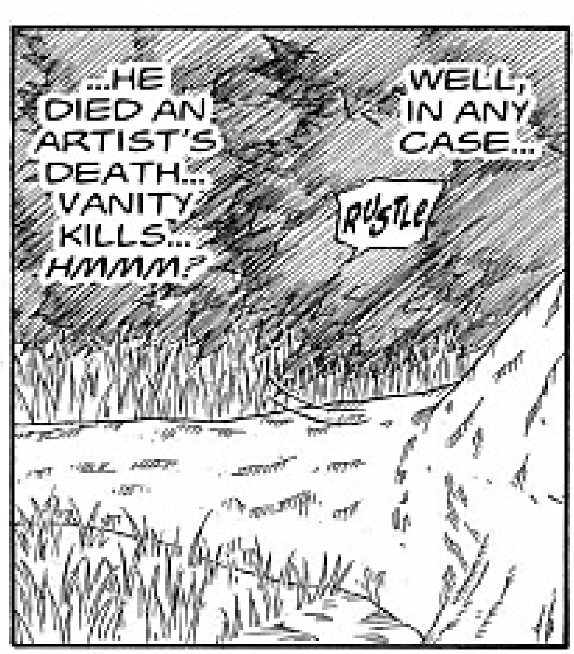

GLANCE


...GOOD ...

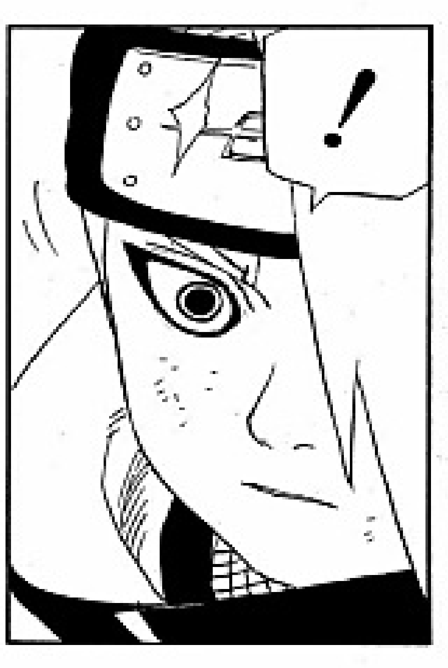

...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
SASORI GOT TAKEN OUT BY THAT BRAT GIRL AND THE OLD BAT...





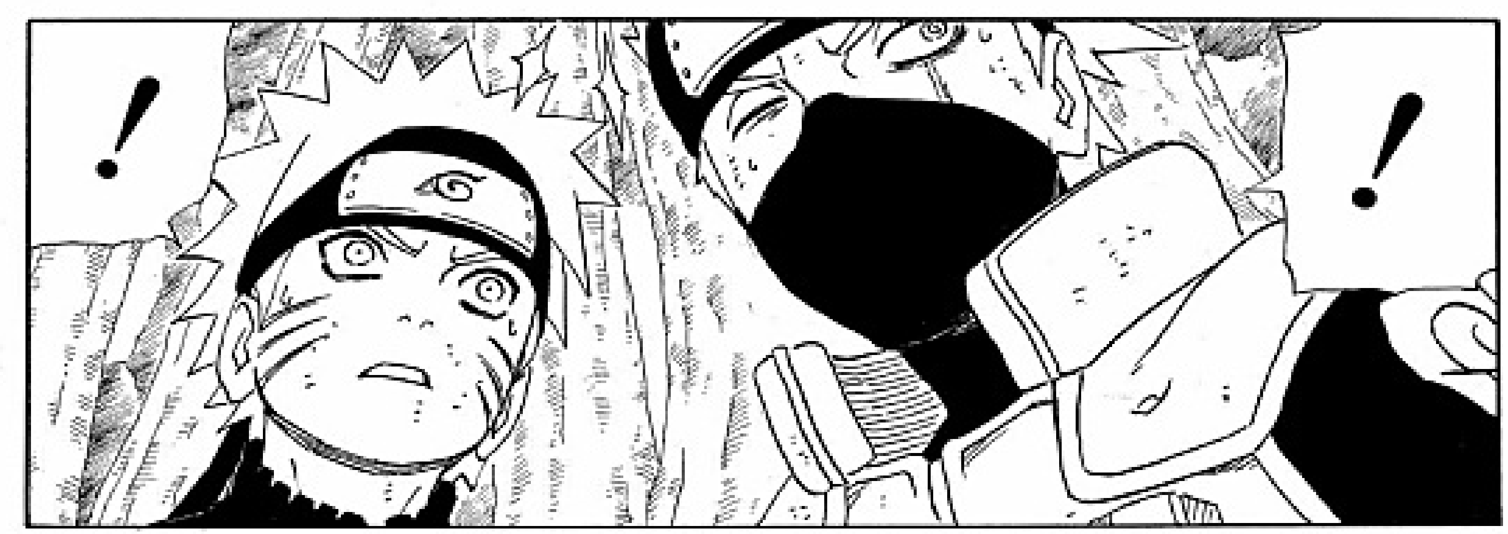






GOOD JOB, NEJI.

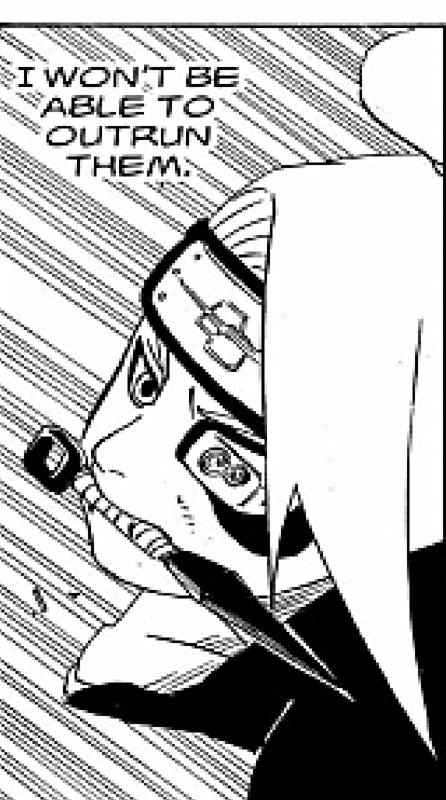
TA-DAA




THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

KA-CHING

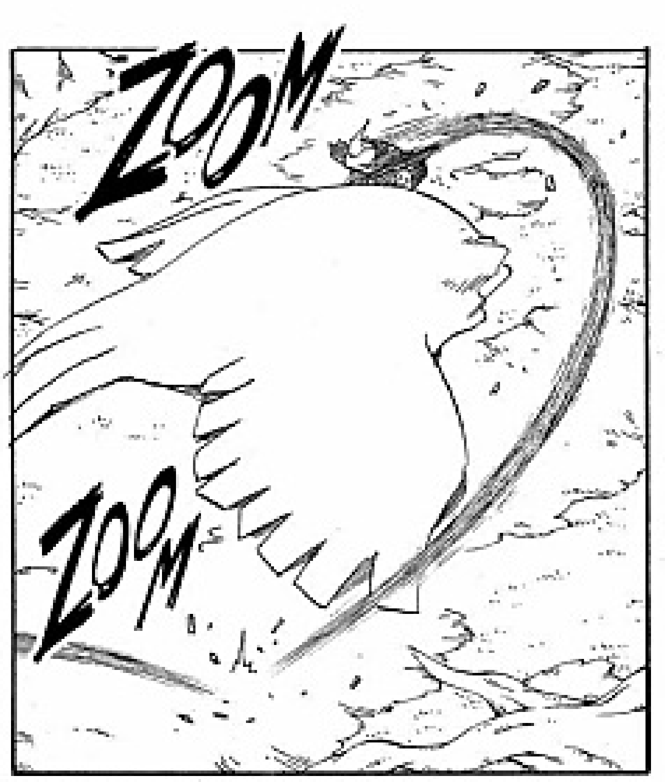

GUY'S TEAM...?


I WON'T BE ABLE TO OUTRUN THEM.



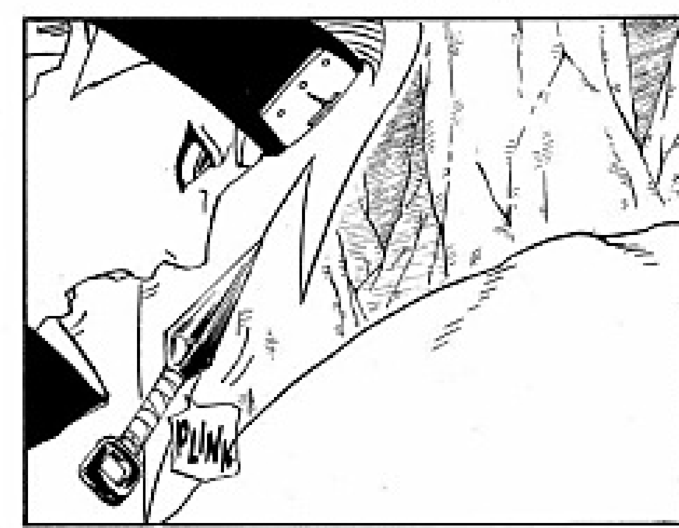

READ
THIS
WAY


THERE...


ZOOM
ZOOM

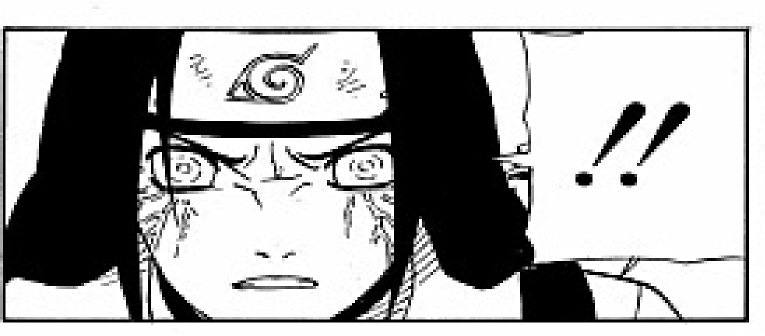
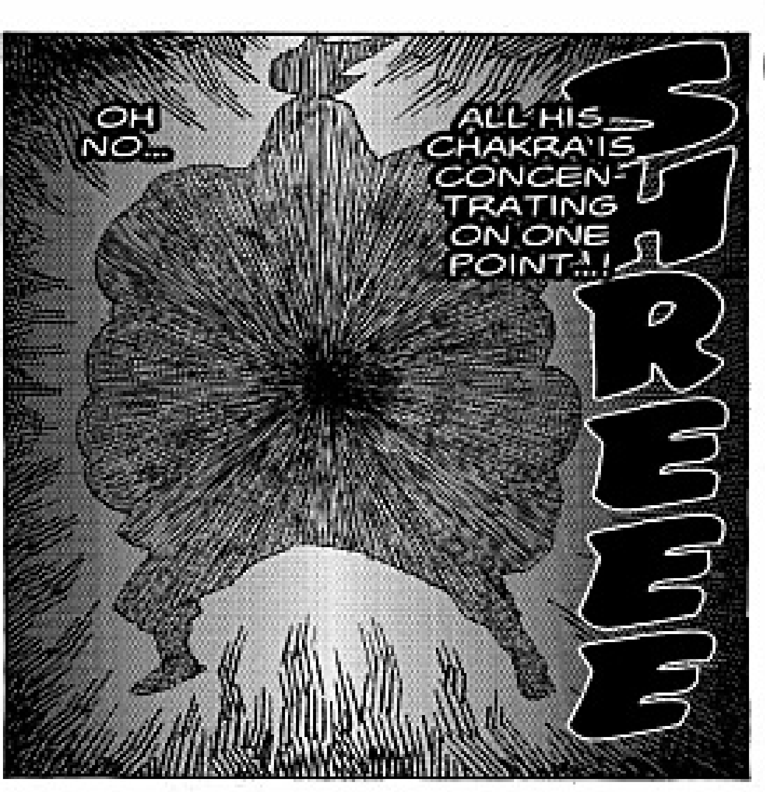

EVERY-ONE, BE CAREFUL!
HE USES BOMBS TO ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE.


TAK
TAK
TAK


PLINK


CHOMP



SHWP

!!

ALL HIS CHAKRA IS CONCEN-TRATING ON ONE POINT...!
OH NO...
SHREEE

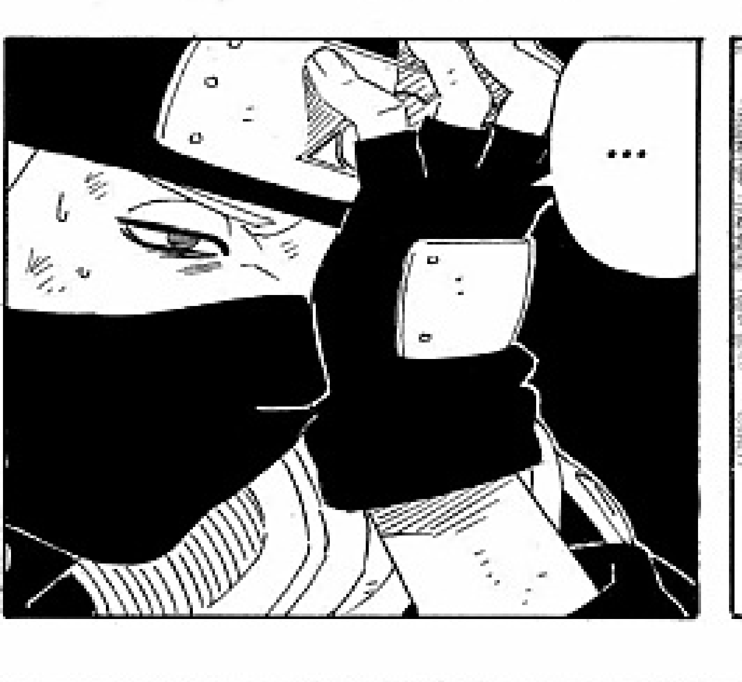
LET ME SHOW YOU MY ULTIMATE ART...
IT'S AN EXPLOSION!
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
TAK


READ
THIS
WAY


EVERY-
ONE,
GET
OUT OF
HERE!!

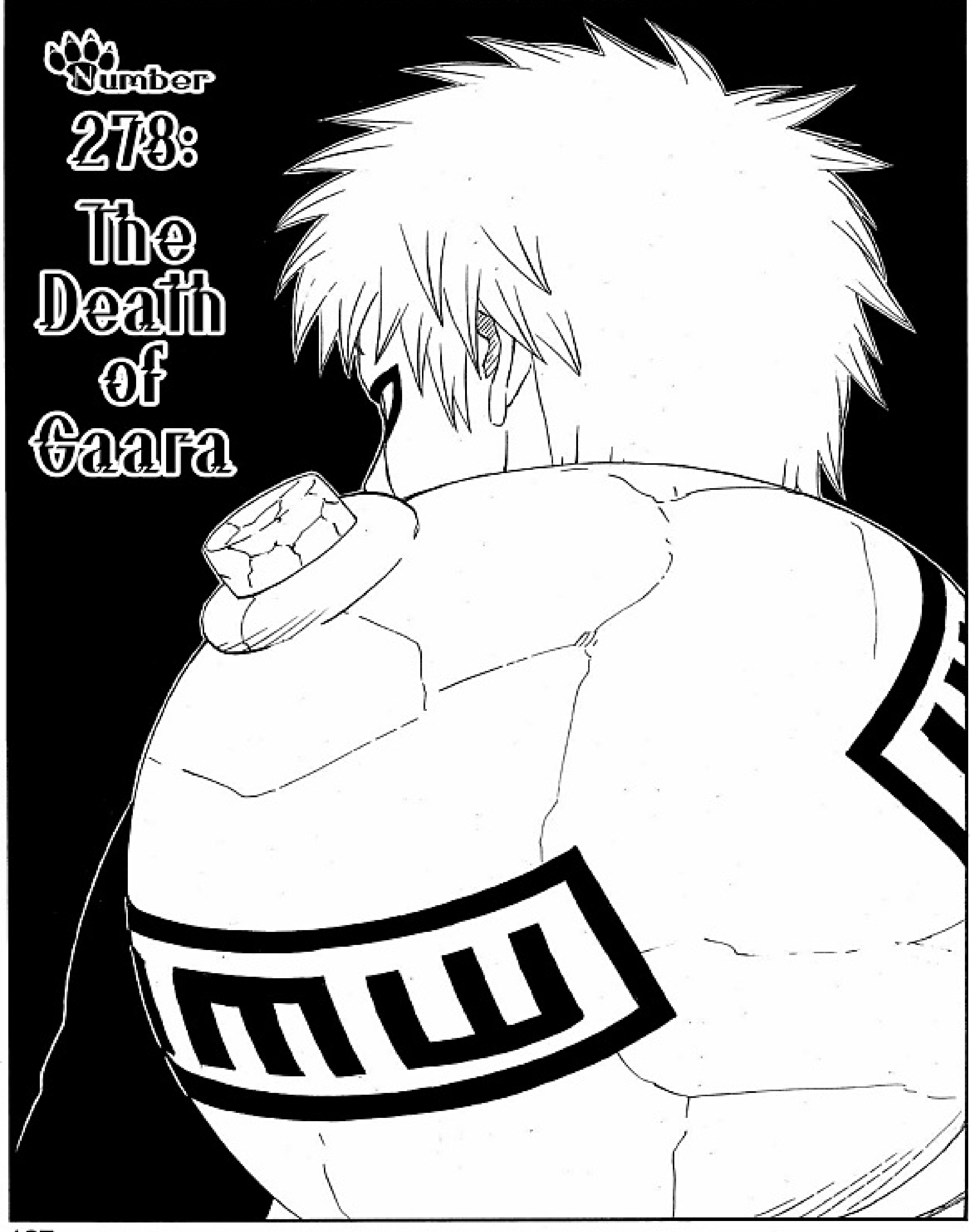

!!


WHOOSH

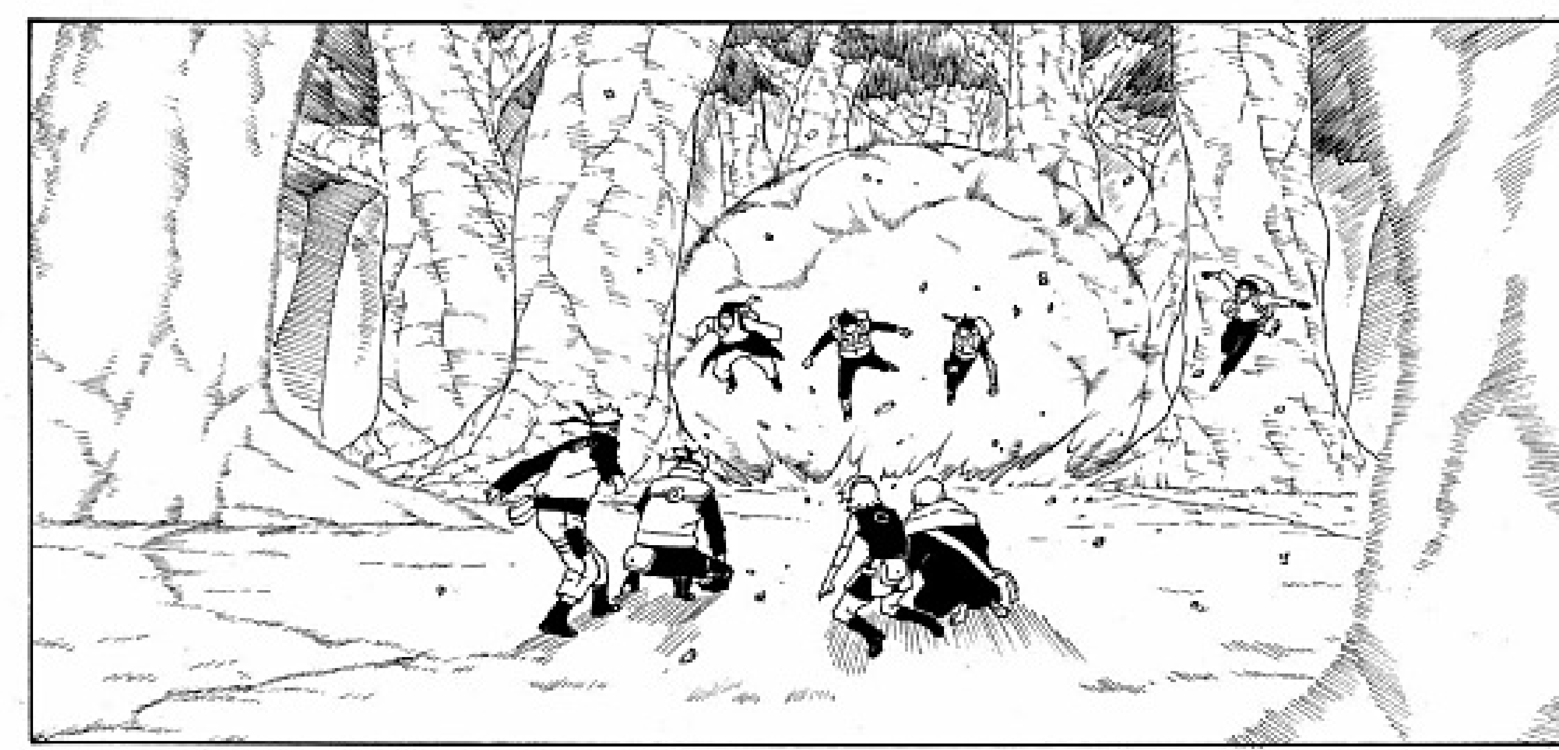

...


YEEAAGH


NARUTO


Number
278:
The Death of Gaara

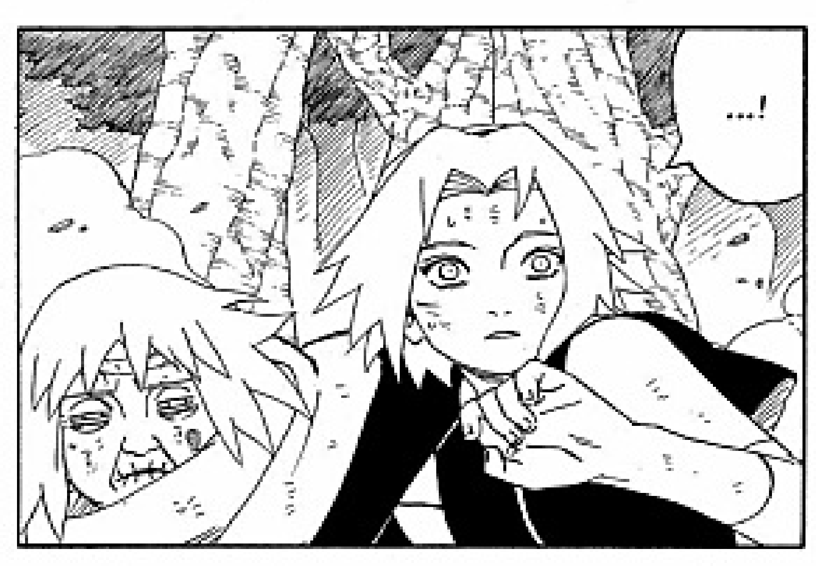
BOO—M




READ
THIS
WAY

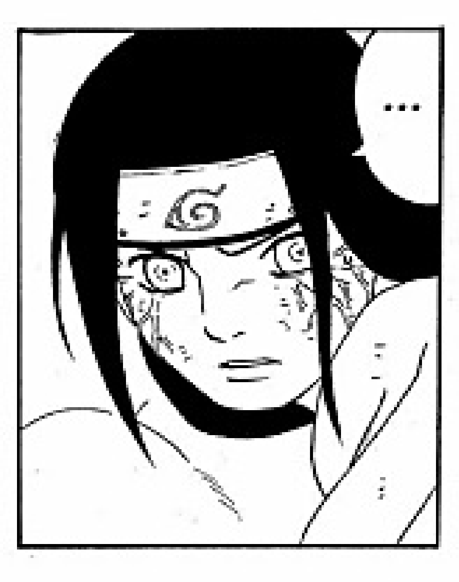
WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT!
ZOOM
FSSSH

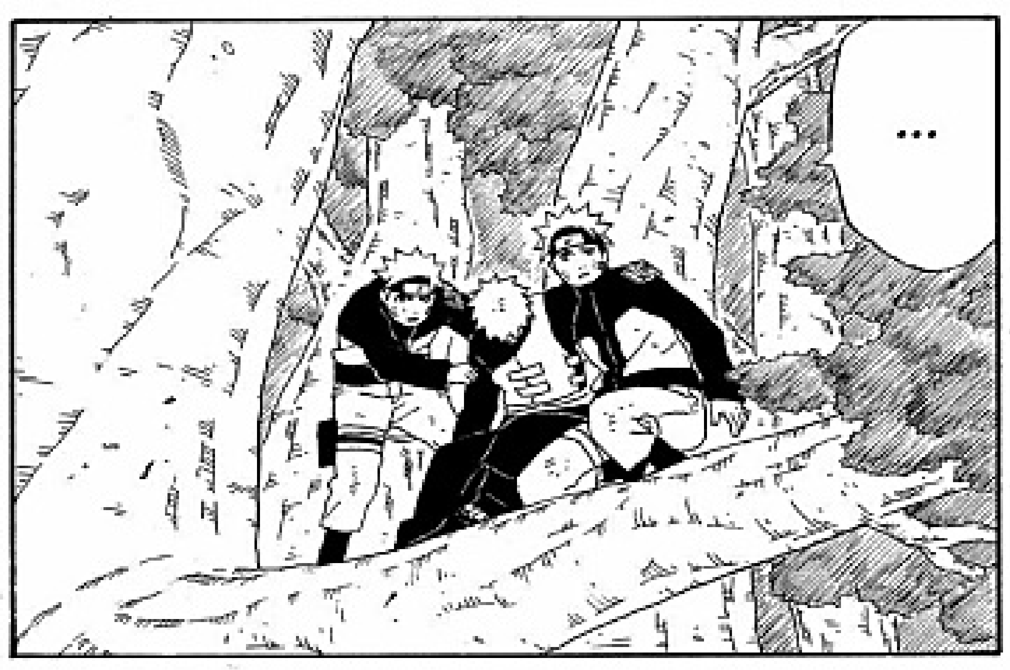

...


...!


WHAT'S GOING ON?

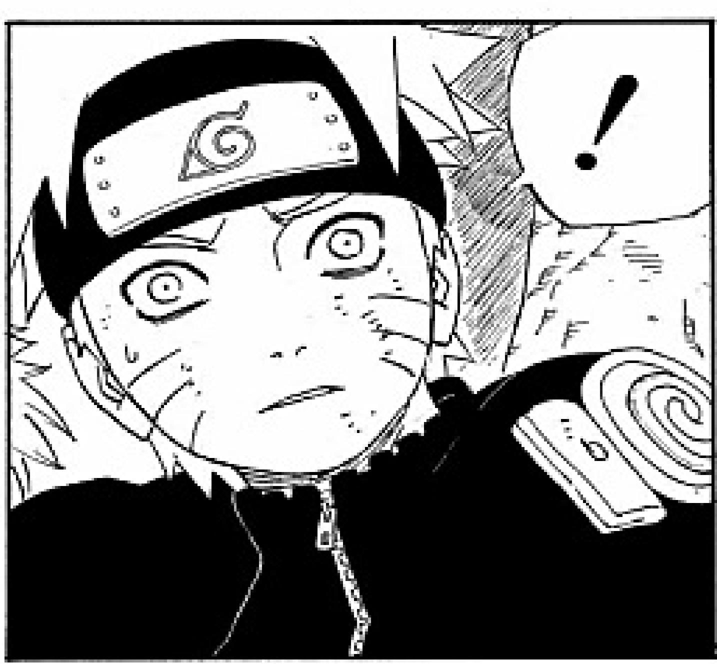


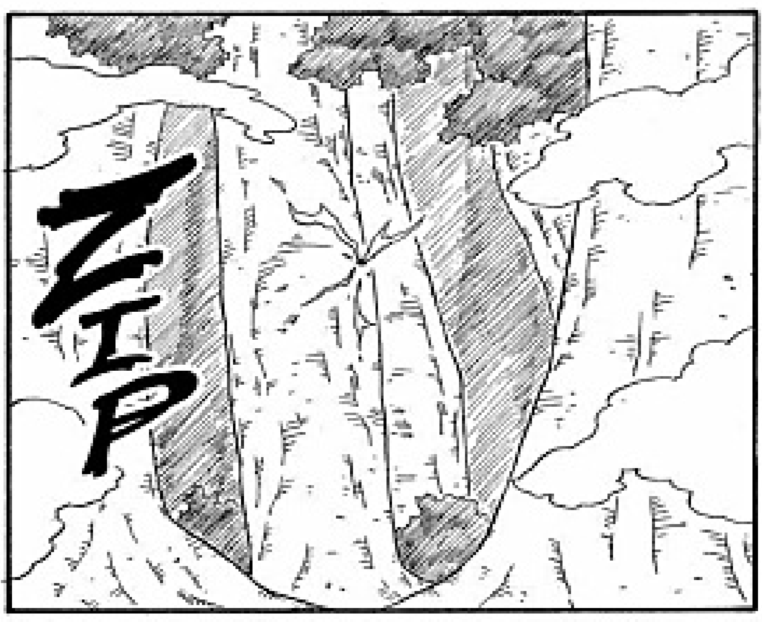

...

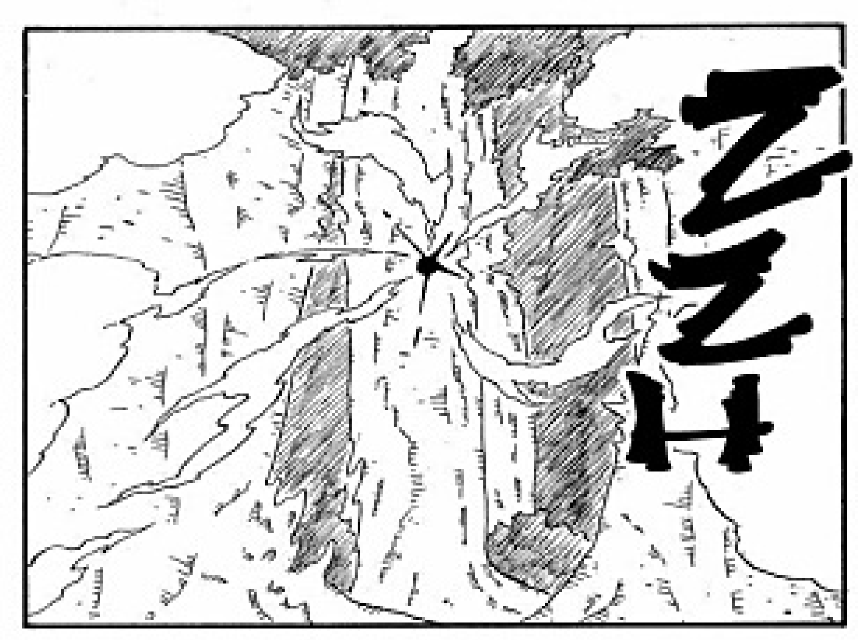

...


...!


ZZZH


!


ZIP


ZZH

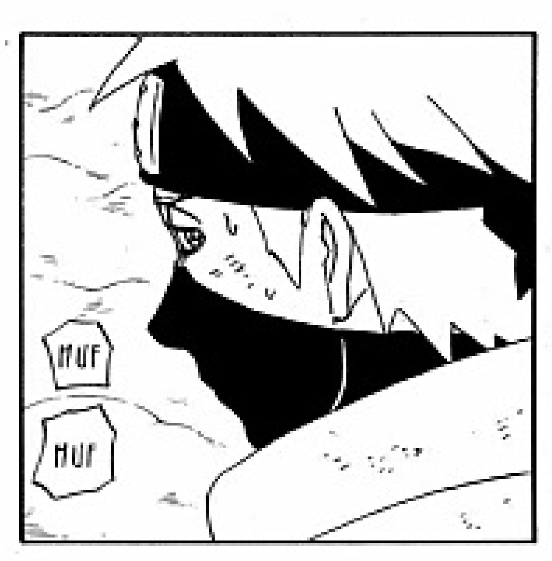
IT WORKED...

HUF

HUF


READ THIS WAY


...


HUF
HUF


...A WORTHY RIVAL...


!
STAGGER


FWUMP
MASTER KAKASHI?!


...WHAT ON EARTH...
...DID YOU DO...?


I TELE-PORTED HIM...
...AND THE EXPLOSION TO ANOTHER SPACE...
HUF
HUF

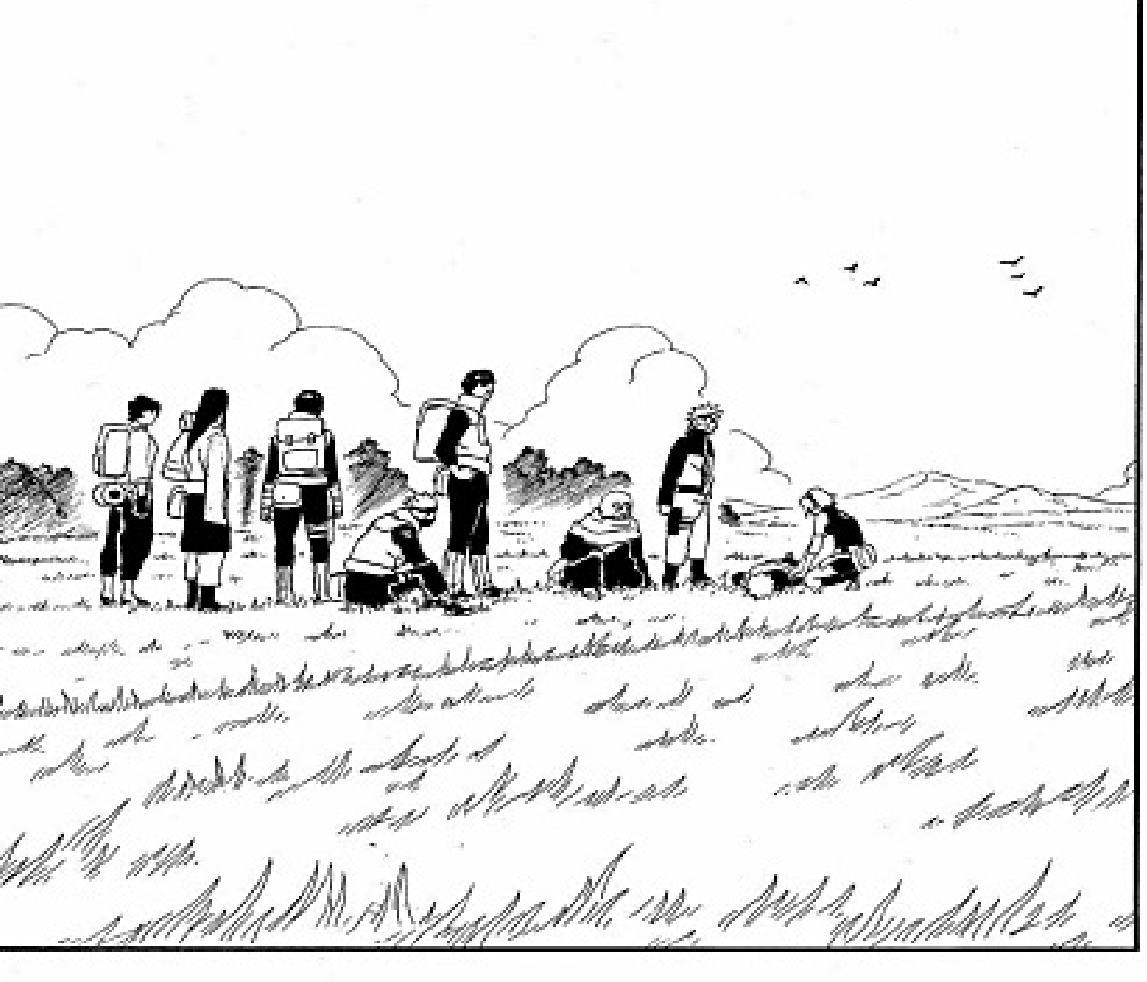
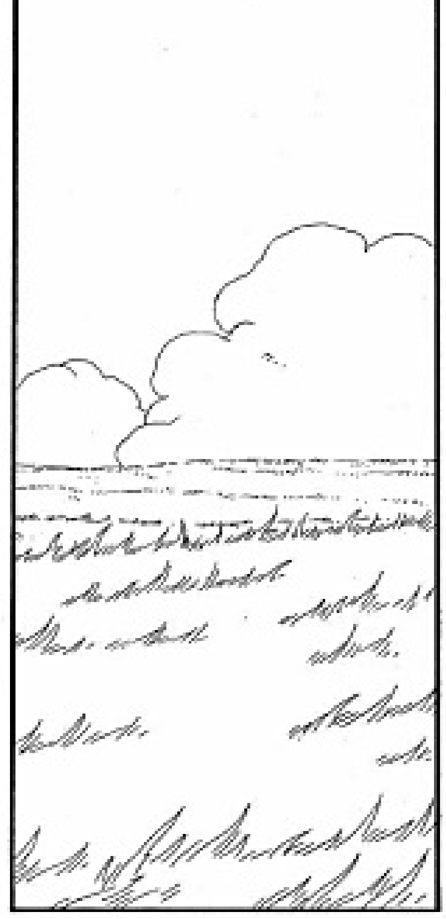

TAK
!

IS EVERYONE OKAY...?
NEVER MIND THAT...

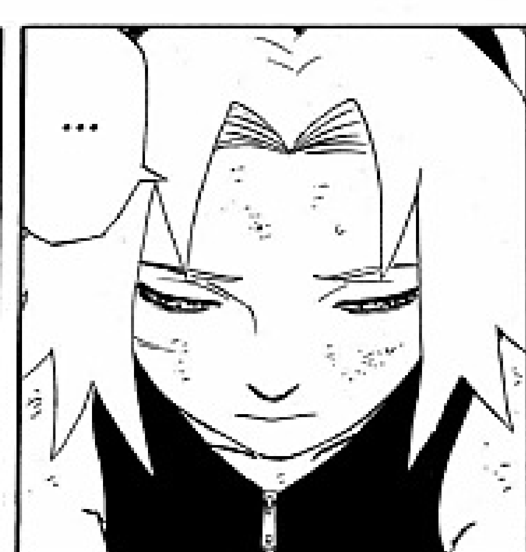

...

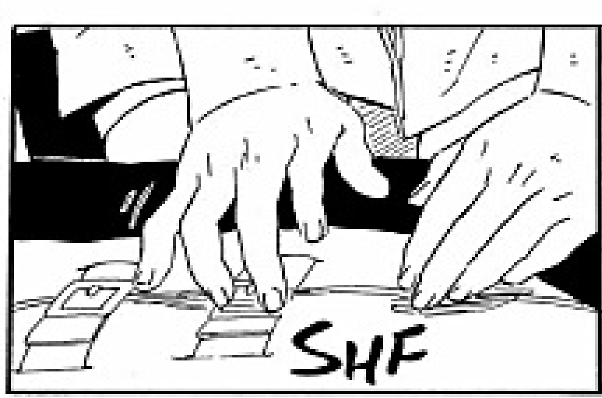
...
YUP

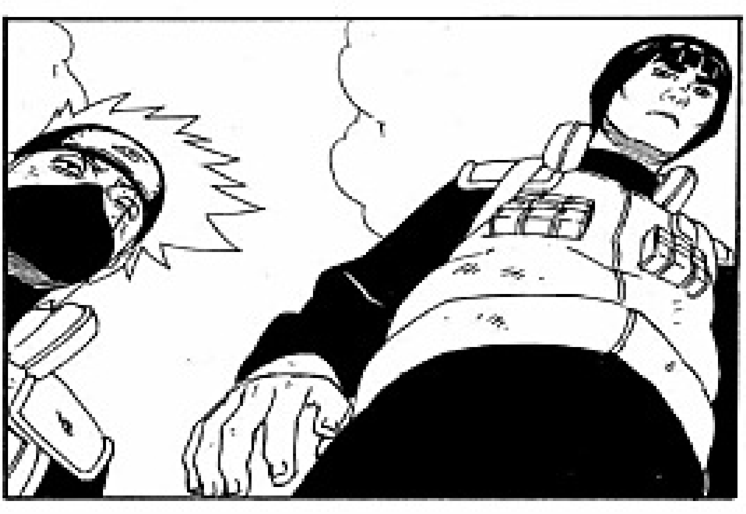
SAKURA...

...SAKURA.

...

...


SHF




...




SHF

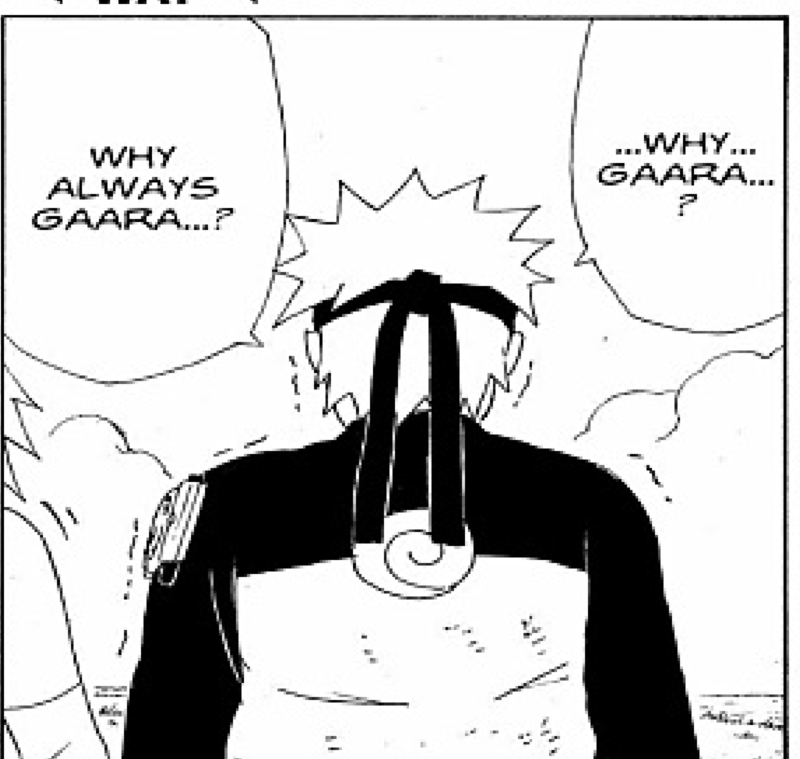




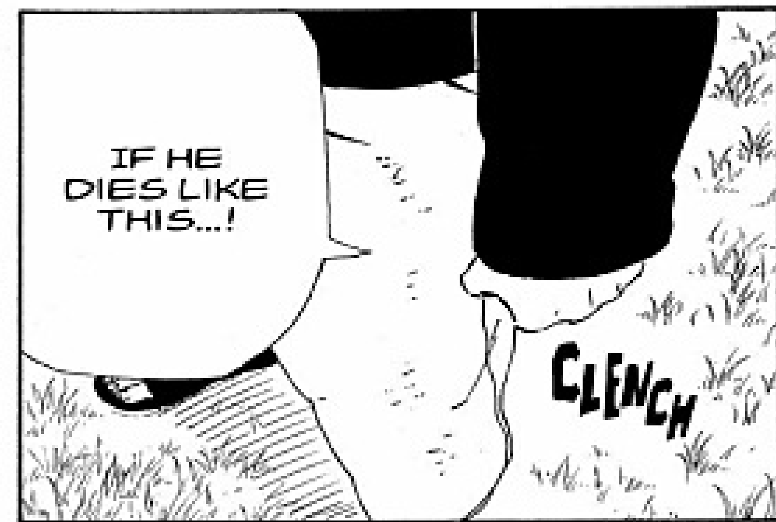
READ THIS WAY



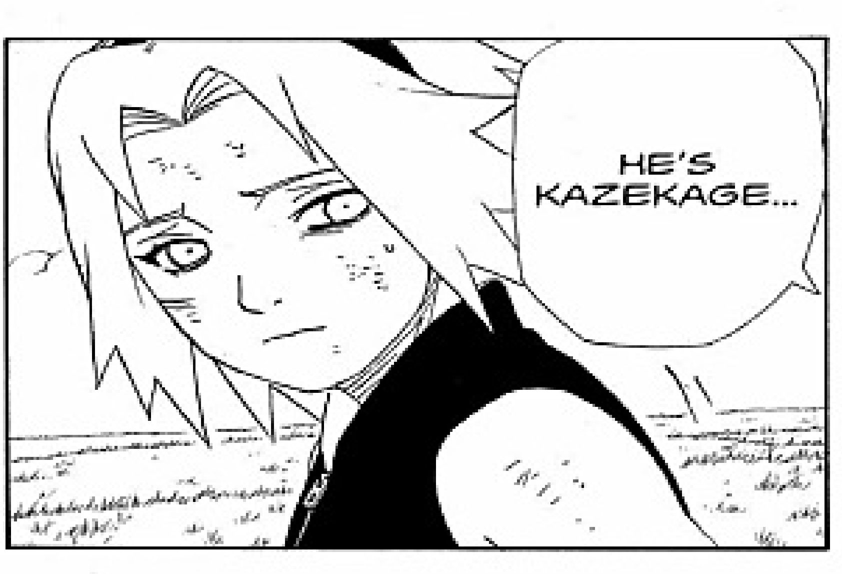




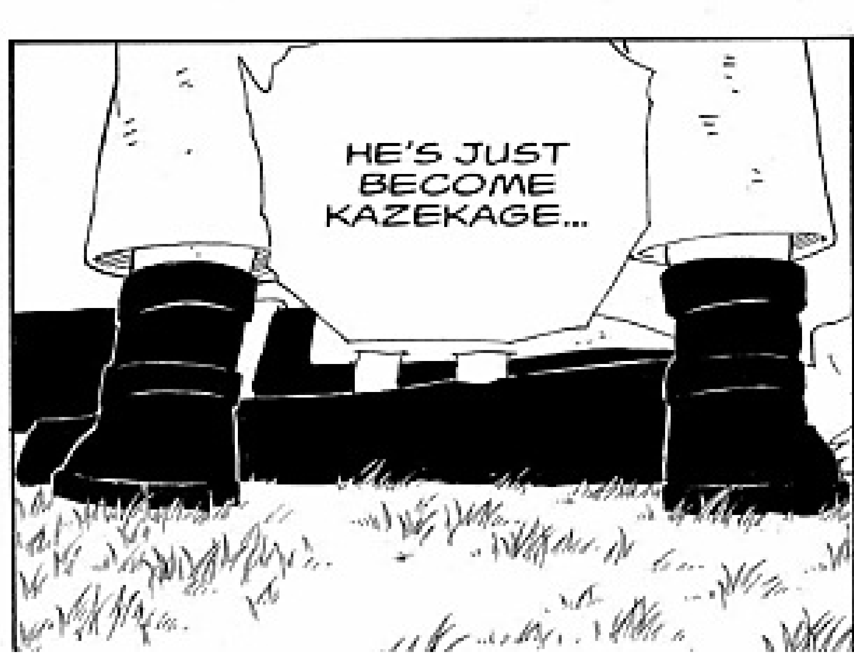
...WHY... GAARA...?
WHY ALWAYS GAARA...?



IF HE DIES LIKE THIS...!
CLENCH



HE'S KAZEKAGE...



HE'S JUST BECOME KAZEKAGE...

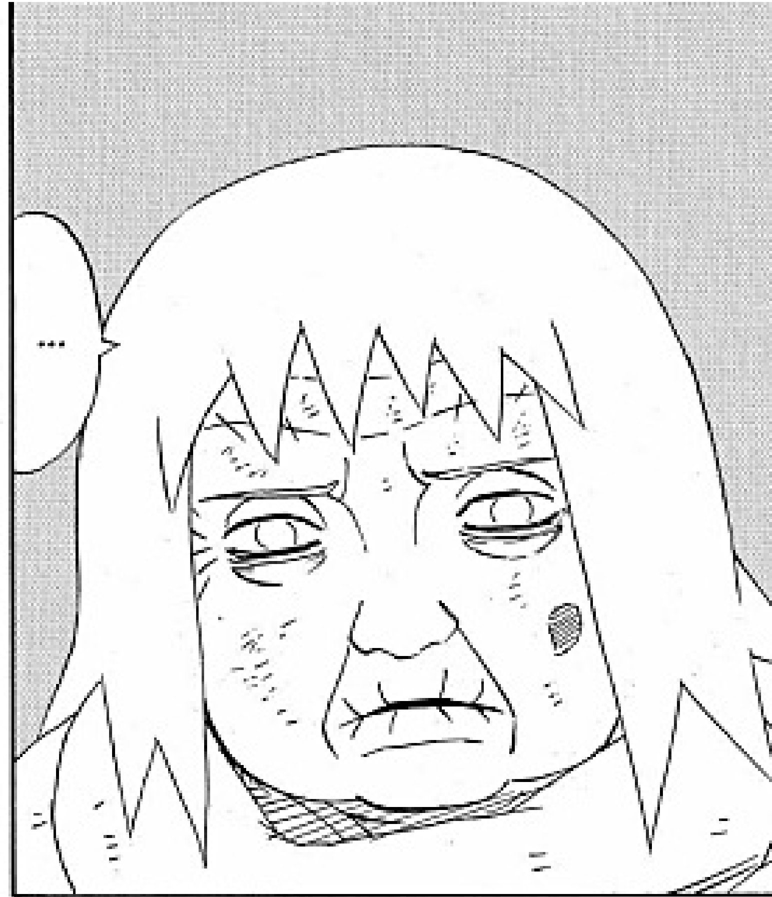


CALM DOWN...
UZUMAKI NARUTO...

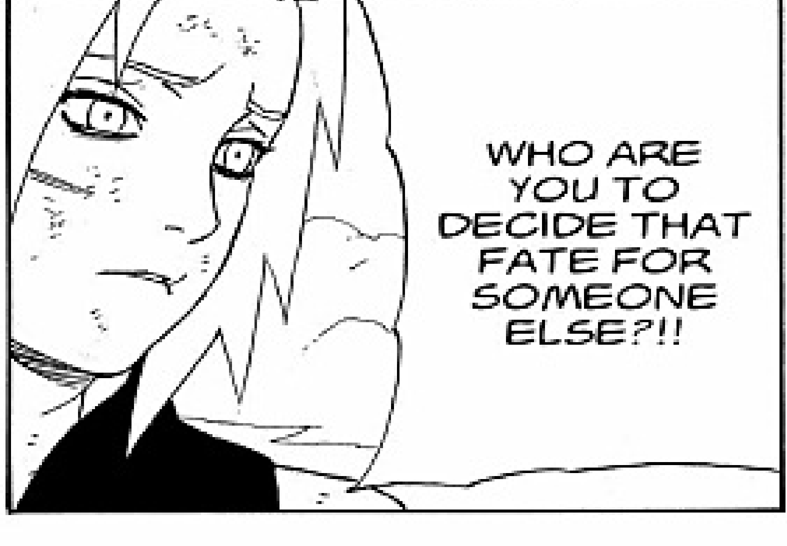



SHUT UP!!!


IF YOU SAND NINJA...
...HADN'T PUT THAT MONSTER IN GAARA...
...NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!!!


...


DID YOU EVER EVEN CONSIDER WHAT GAARA THOUGHT?!
DID YOU EVER EVEN ASK?!!

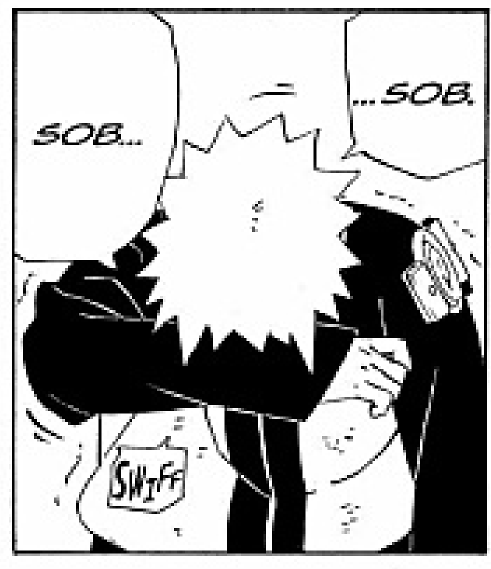

WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE THAT FATE FOR SOMEONE ELSE?!!

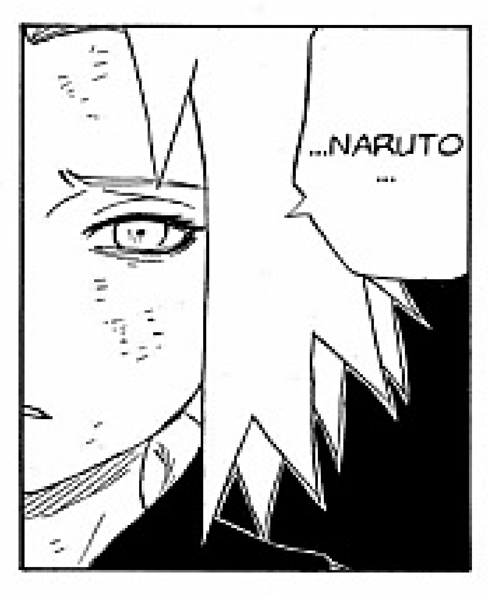

...YOU CALL HIM A JINCHŪRIKI HOST?!!


READ THIS WAY

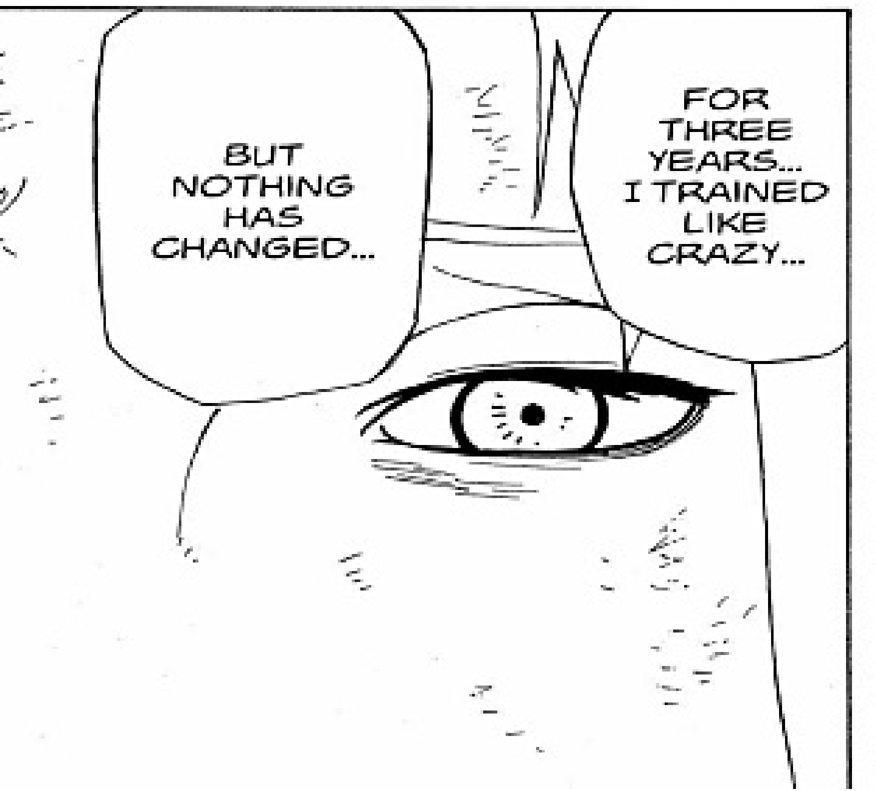

...


SOB...


...SOB.
SOB...
SWIFF

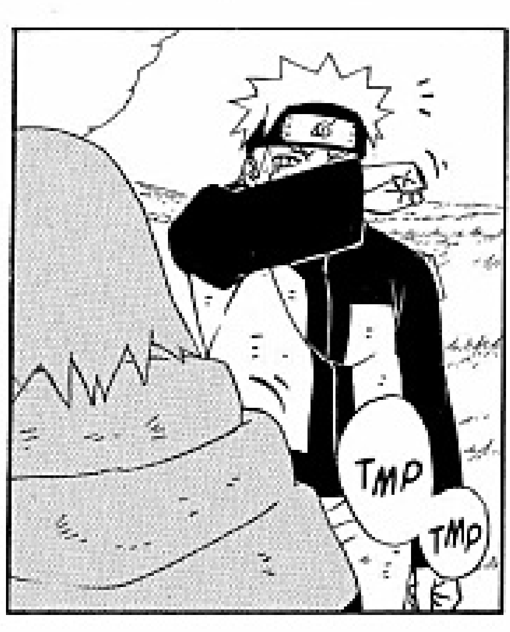

...NARUTO ...


...I COULDN'T SAVE SASUKE...
... I CAN'T SAVE GAARA...


FOR THREE YEARS... I TRAINED LIKE CRAZY...
BUT NOTHING HAS CHANGED...

...


SHF

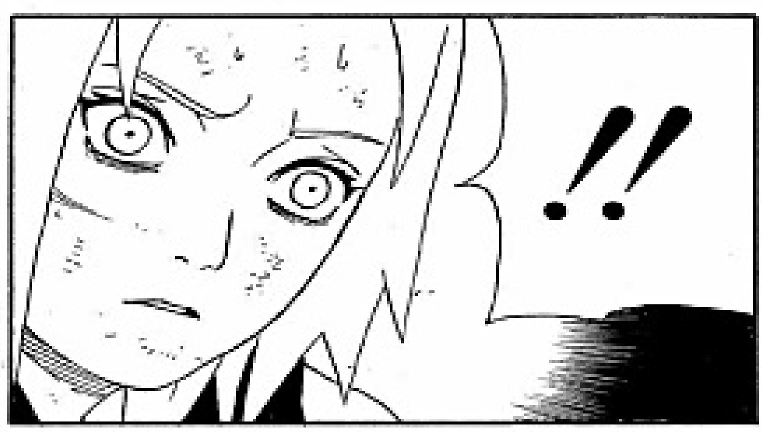

TMP
TMP


SKF


FWOO


READ
THIS
WAY


HOOOOM


!!

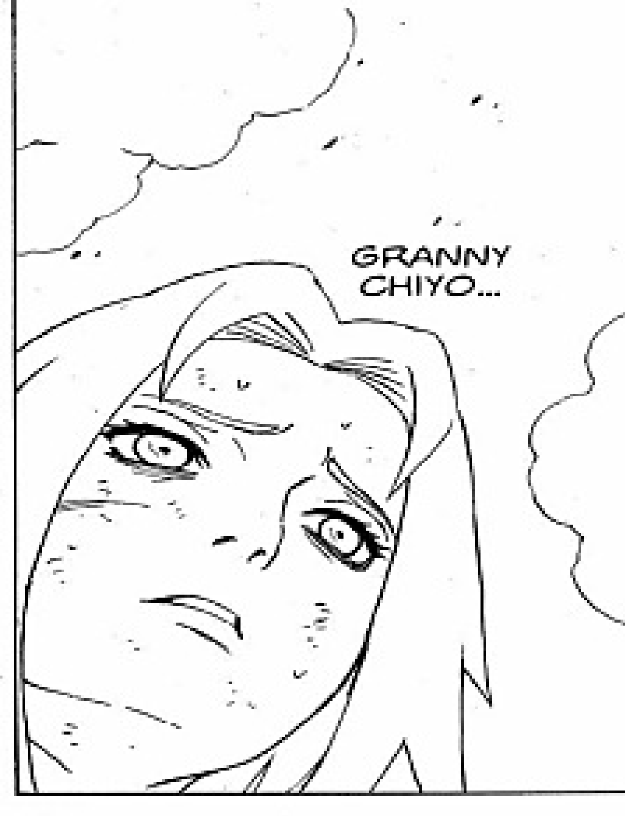

...!

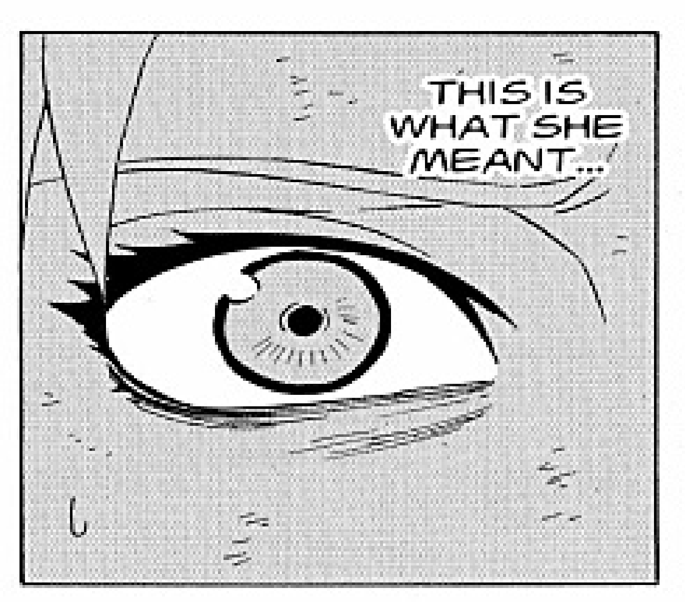

GRANNY CHIYO... THAT JUTSU...!!


GRIN

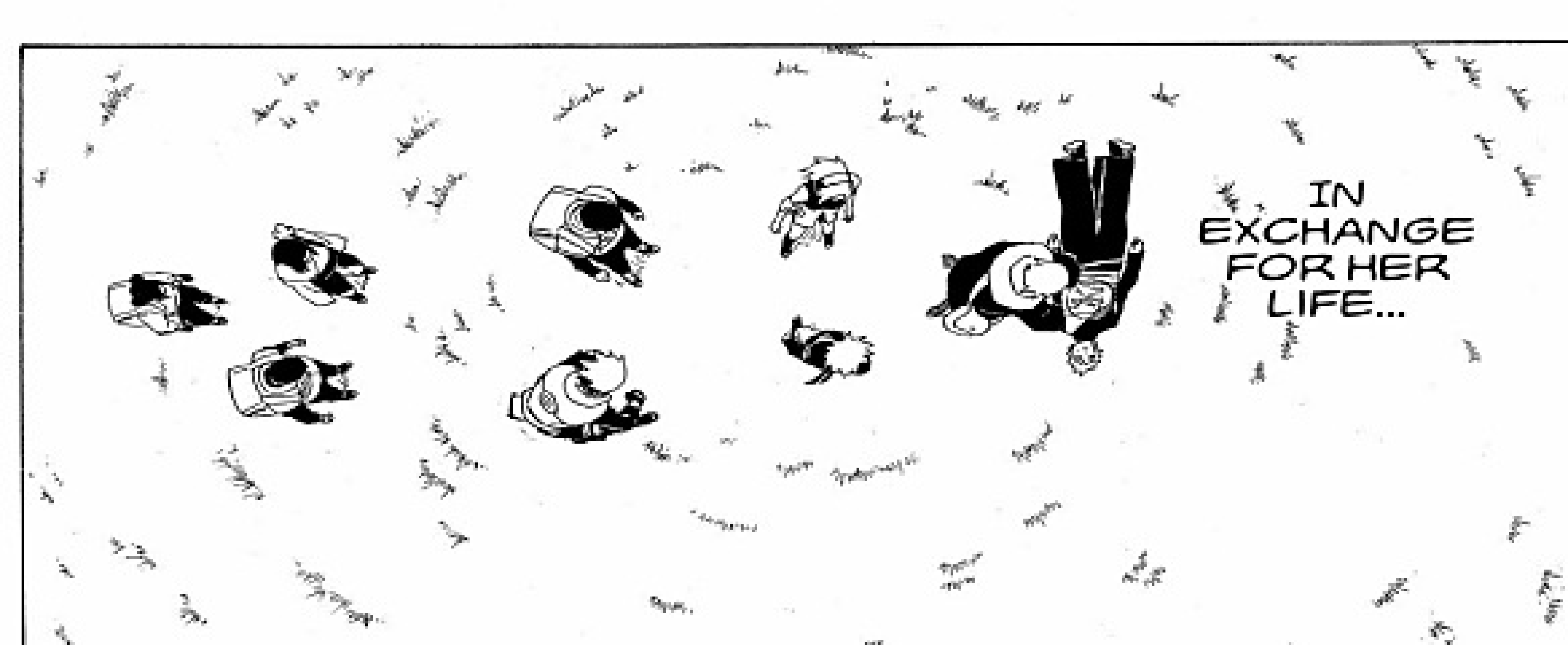

NO...
MEDICAL NINJUTSU...?


...WHAT'S SHE DOING?


GRANNY CHIYO...


THIS IS WHAT SHE MEANT...


...SOMETHING I MUST DO...
THERE'S STILL...


IN EXCHANGE FOR HER LIFE...





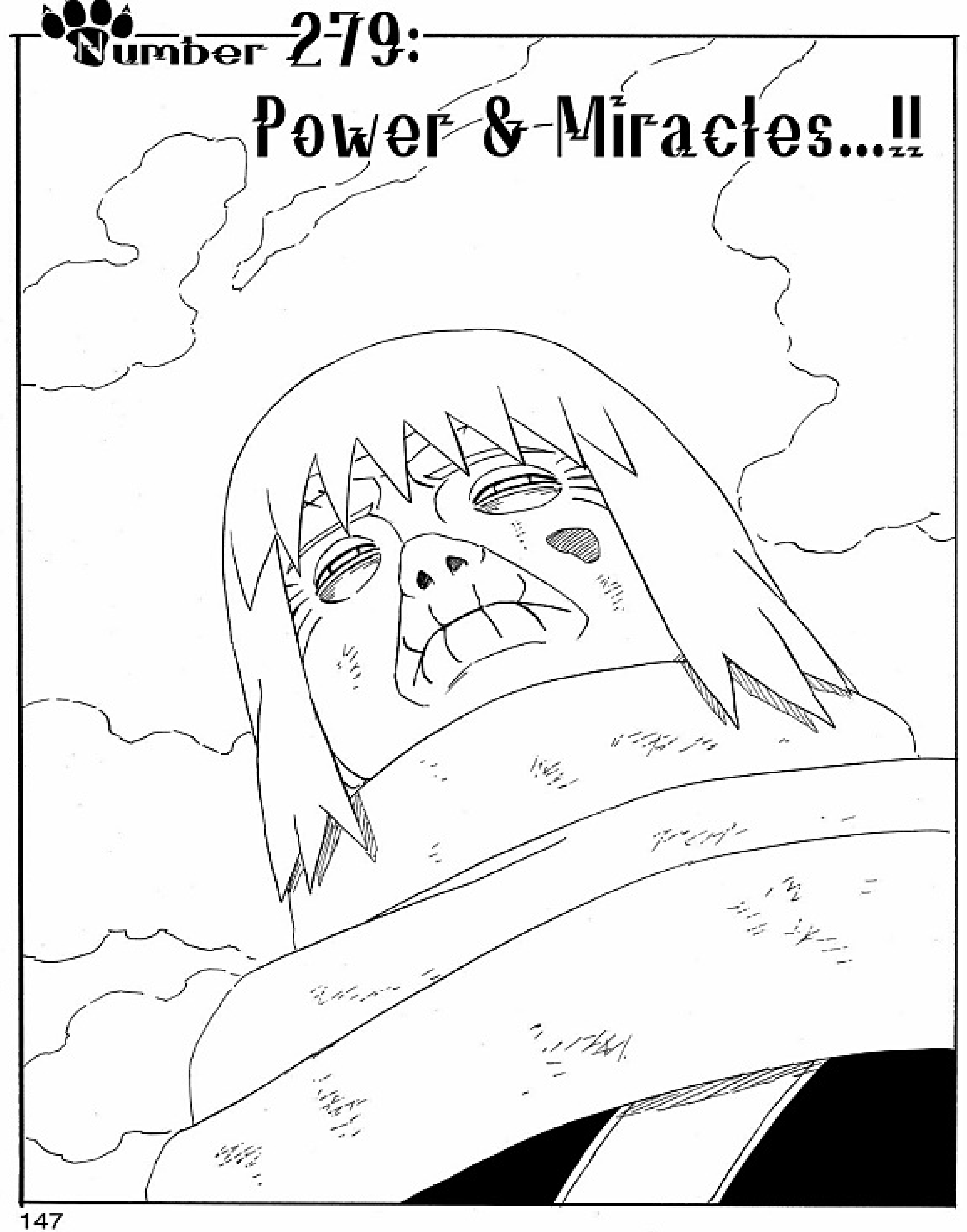




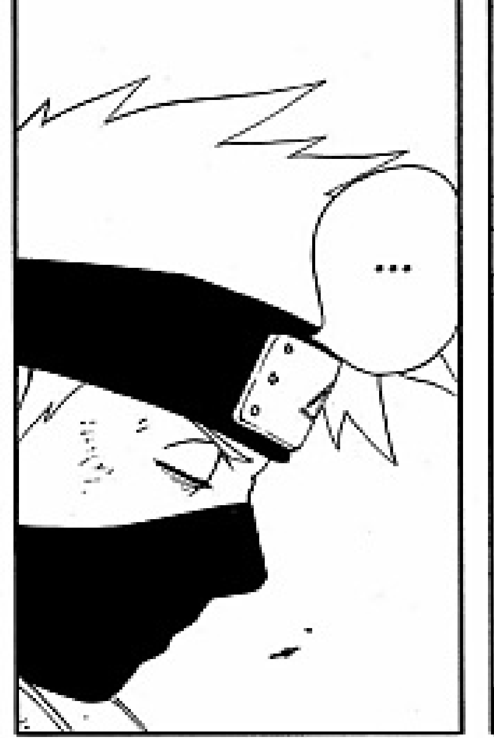
SHE'S GOING TO...

...BRING GAARA BACK!!

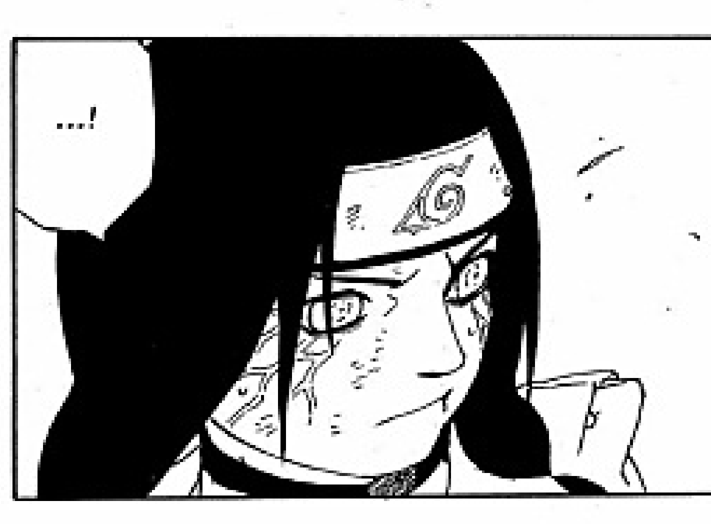

NARUTO


Number 279: Power & Miracles...!!



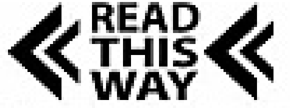


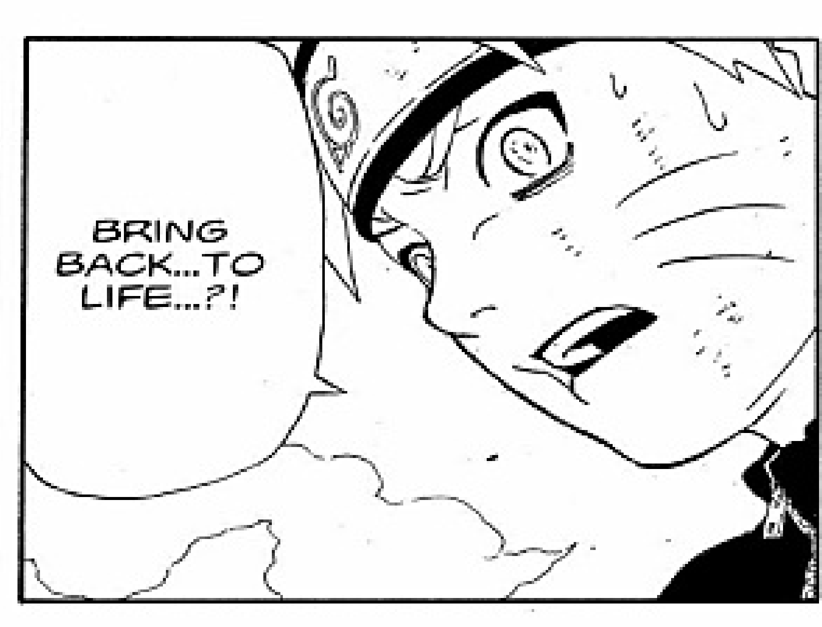








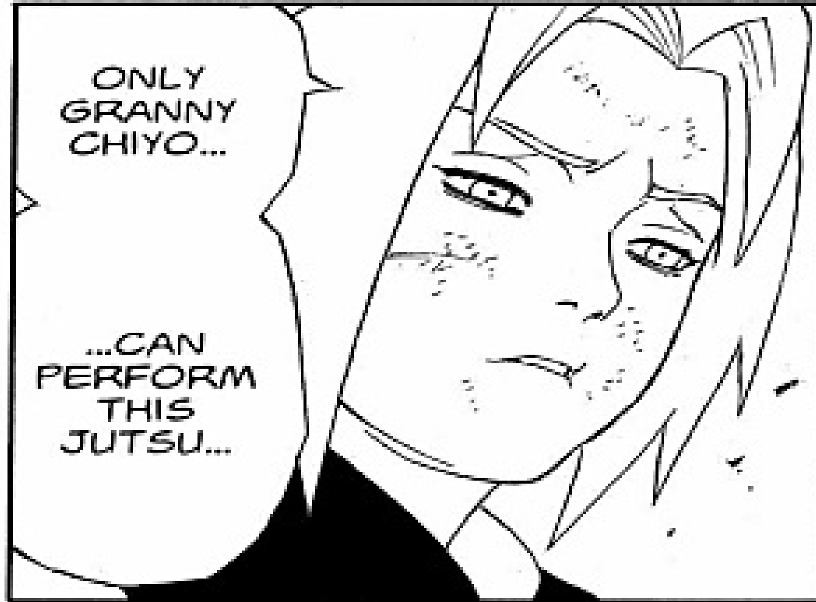

READ
THIS
WAY


BRING BACK...TO LIFE...?!





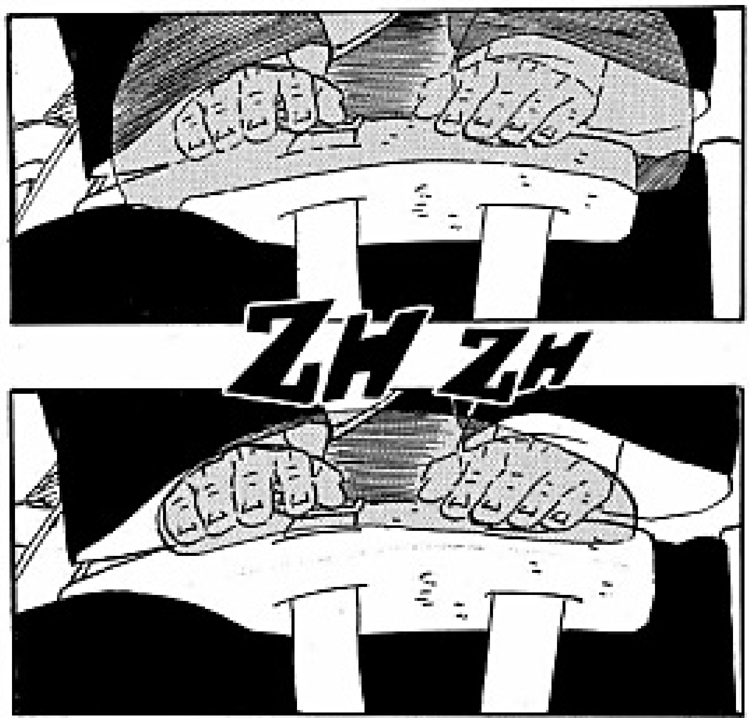

...CAN SHE...
...REALLY DO THAT...?

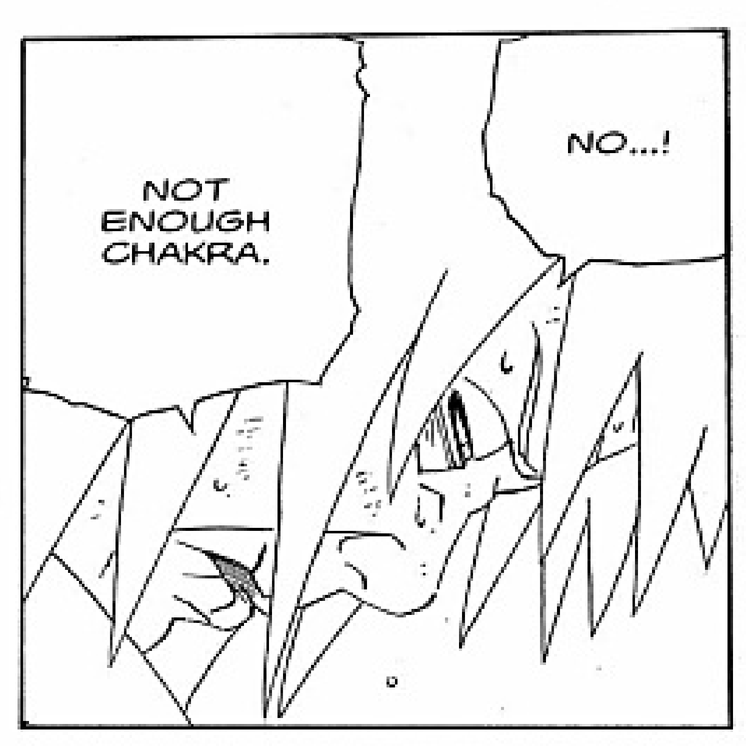

ONLY GRANNY CHIYO...
...CAN PERFORM THIS JUTSU...


THAT CHAKRA FLOW...
SUCH A JUTSU REQUIRES...

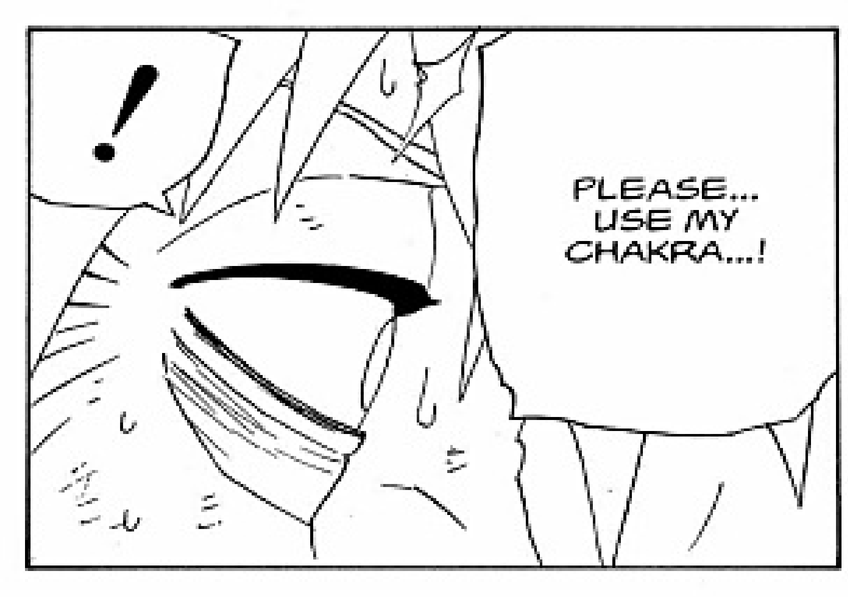

...COMMEN-
SURATE
RISK...


UGH...


ZH ZH


NO...!
NOT ENOUGH CHAKRA.


...
HUF
HUF


PLEASE... USE MY CHAKRA...!
!


READ THIS WAY
SHF
IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
GRANNY...


...


GAARA IS A JINCHŪRIKI TOO.
NARUTO UNDERSTANDS GAARA MORE THAN ANYONE OF SUNAGAKURE EVER COULD.

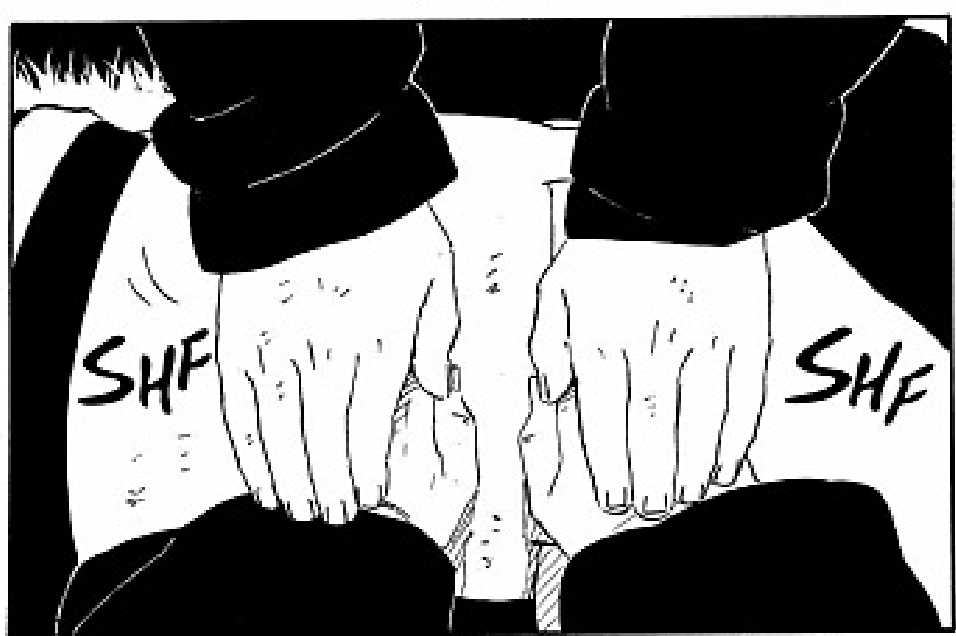

WHEN IT COMES TO HOW JINCHŪRIKI HAVE BEEN TREATED...
...ALL THE VILLAGES ARE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.


THAT'S WHY...
NARUTO HAS TO SAVE GAARA...

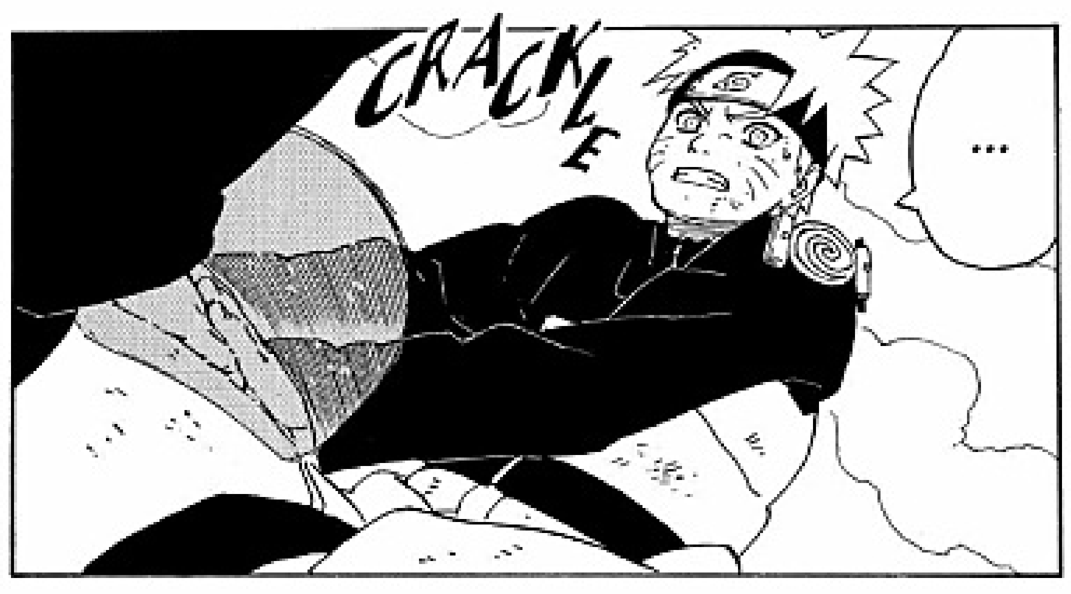

WHETHER IT'S KONOHA OR SUNA...
...MEANS NOTHING TO HIM.

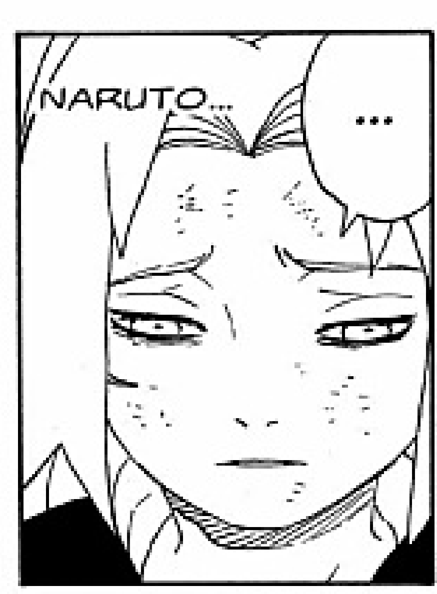

PLACE YOUR HANDS ON MINE.
!


...


SHF
SHF

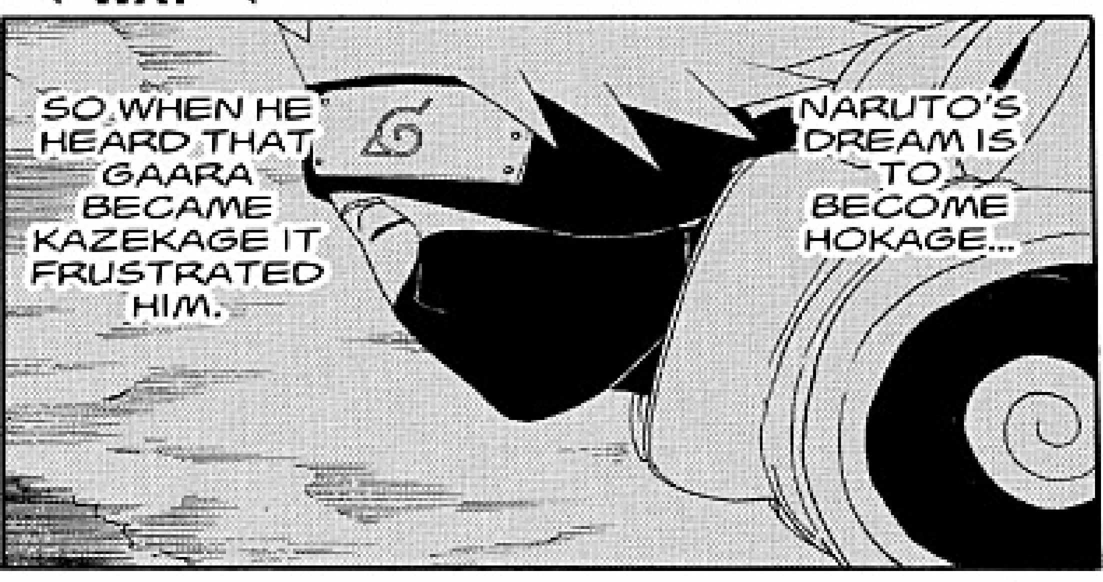

NOD


CRACKLE
...

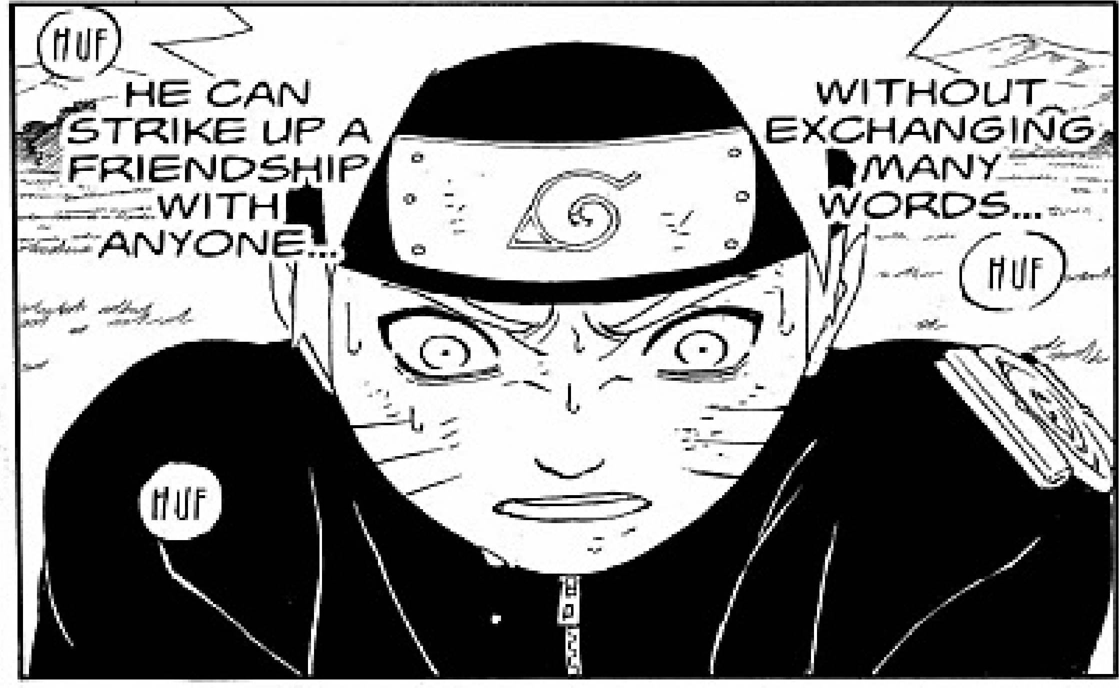

NARUTO...
...

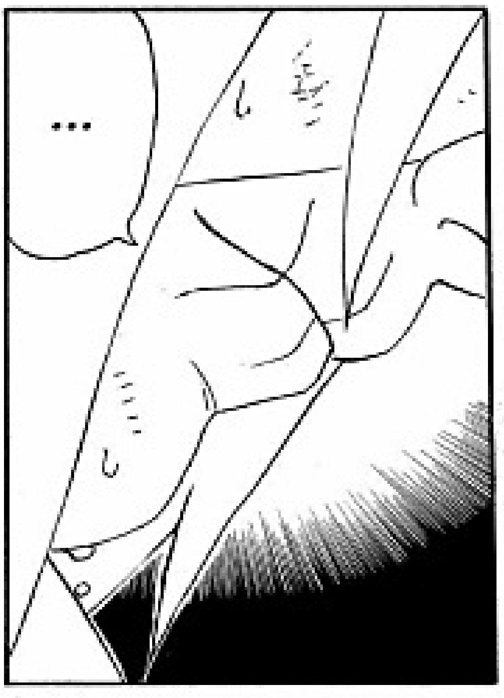

READ THIS WAY


...


NARUTO'S DREAM IS TO BECOME HOKAGE...
SO WHEN HE HEARD THAT GAARA BECAME KAZEKAGE IT FRUSTRATED HIM.

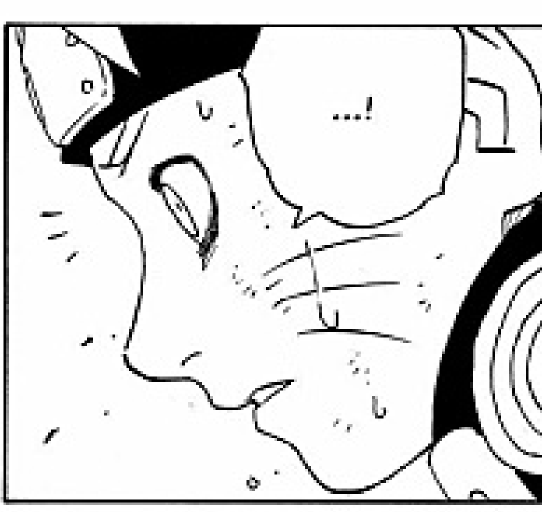

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, NARUTO WAS SINCERELY HAPPY FOR GAARA.
NARUTO POSSESSES A SPECIAL POWER.


HUF
WITHOUT EXCHANGING MANY WORDS...
HUF
HE CAN STRIKE UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH ANYONE...
HUF


...

IN THIS SHINOBI WORLD CREATED BY FRIVOLOUS OLD PEOPLE...

...I'M GLAD NEW SOULS LIKE YOU HAVE COME ALONG...





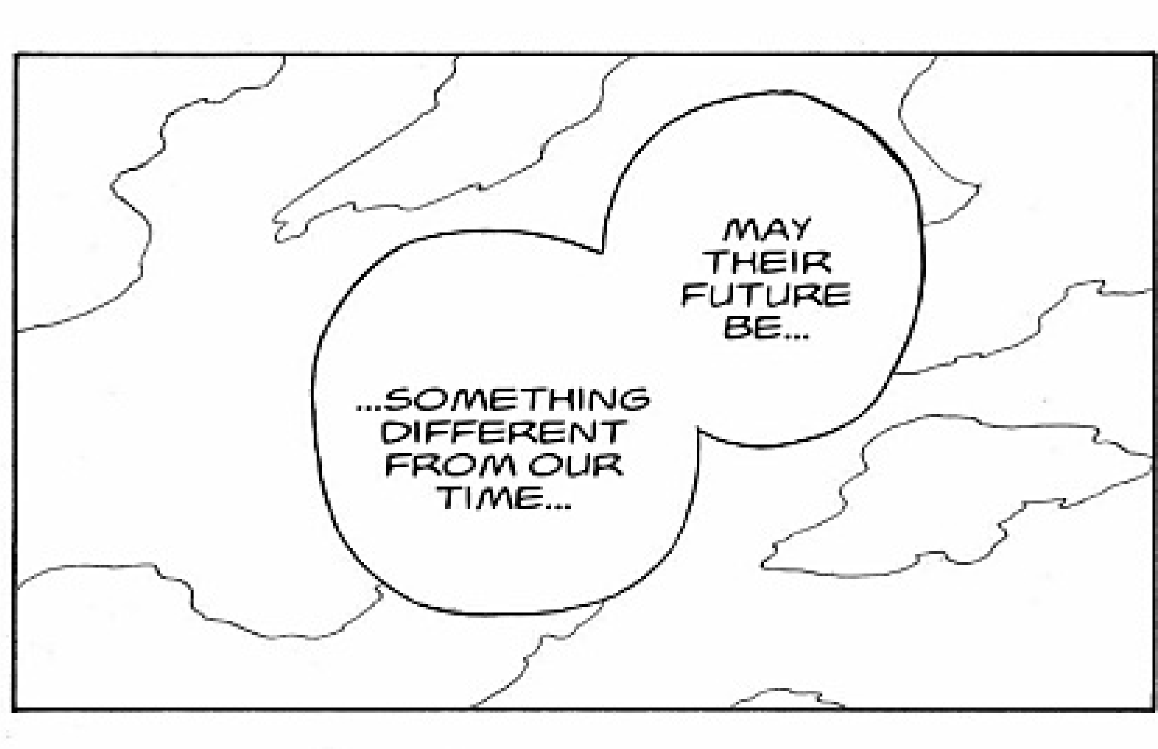




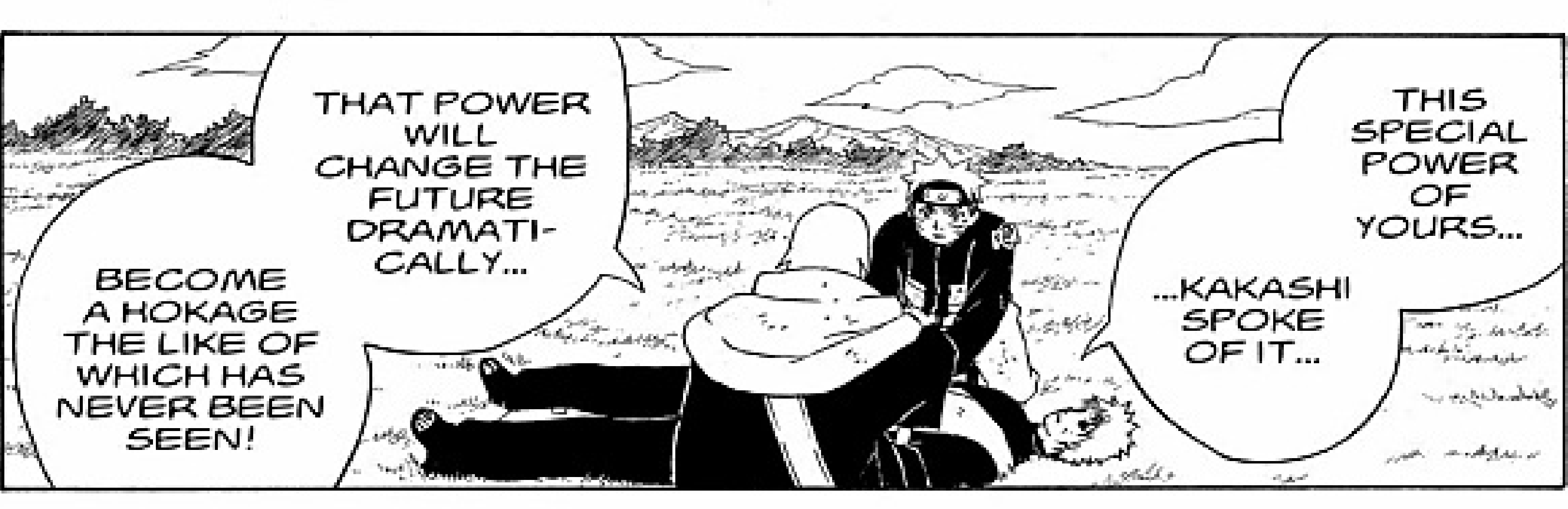


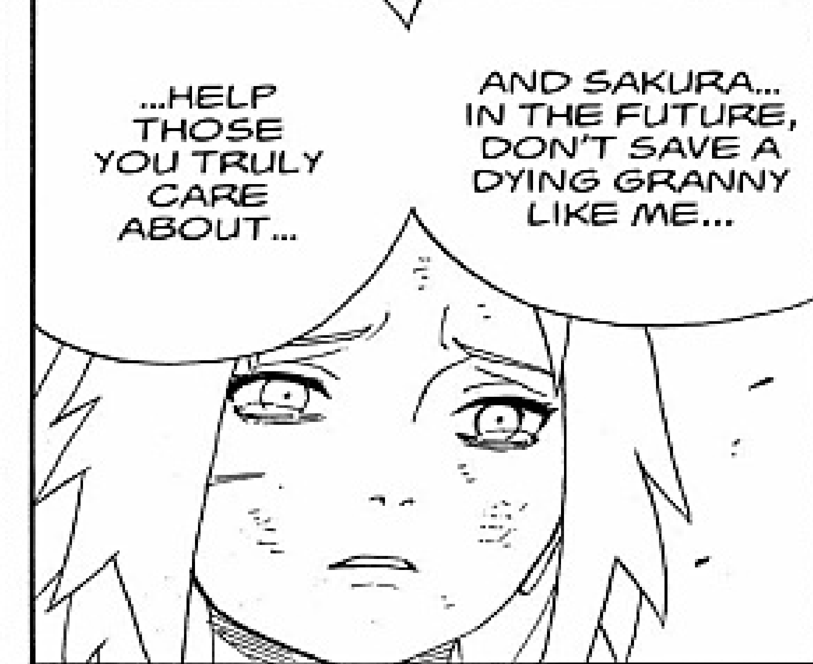


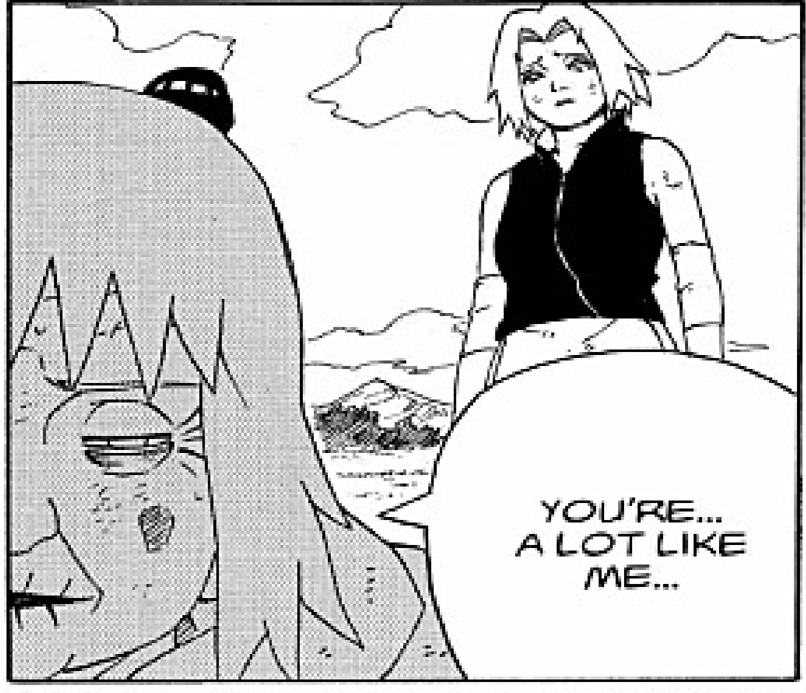

READ THIS WAY


MAY THEIR FUTURE BE...
...SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM OUR TIME...


...


THIS SPECIAL POWER OF YOURS...
...KAKASHI SPOKE OF IT...
THAT POWER WILL CHANGE THE FUTURE DRAMATI-CALLY...
BECOME A HOKAGE THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN!

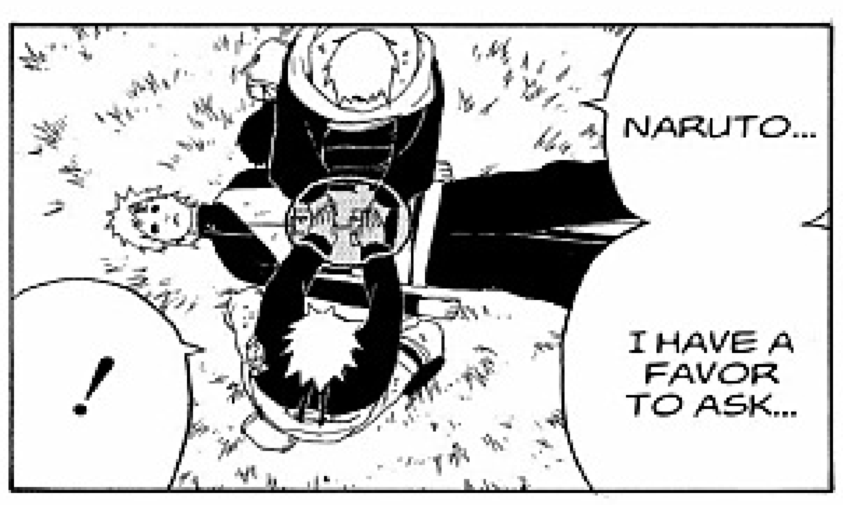

AND SAKURA... IN THE FUTURE, DON'T SAVE A DYING GRANNY LIKE ME...
...HELP THOSE YOU TRULY CARE ABOUT...


YOU'RE... A LOT LIKE ME...

SO FEW WOMEN POSSESS SUCH STRONG SPIRIT...

YOU'LL LIKELY SURPASS YOUR TEACHER...

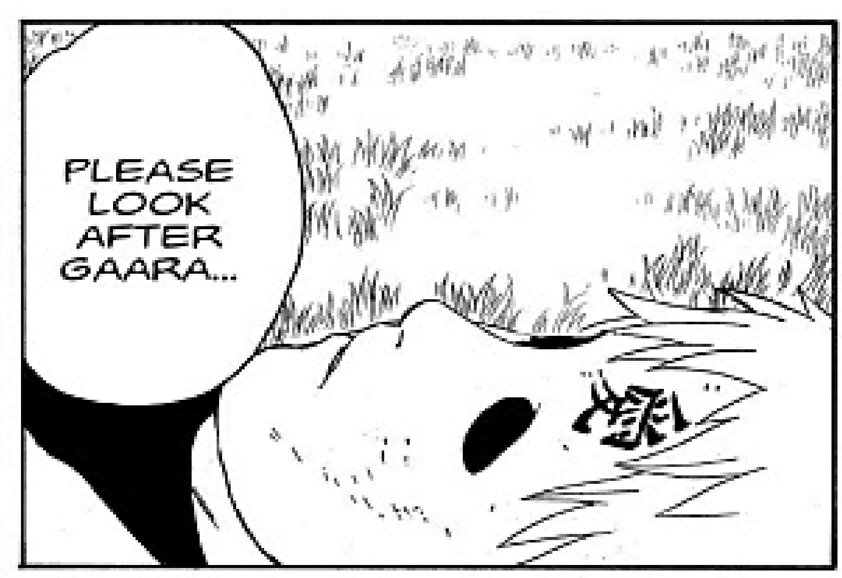


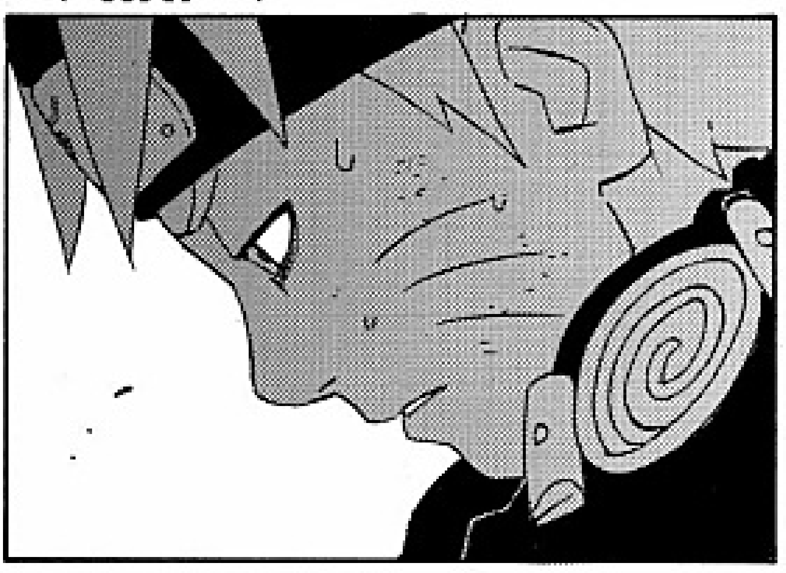







READ
THIS
WAY


PLEASE LOOK AFTER GAARA...















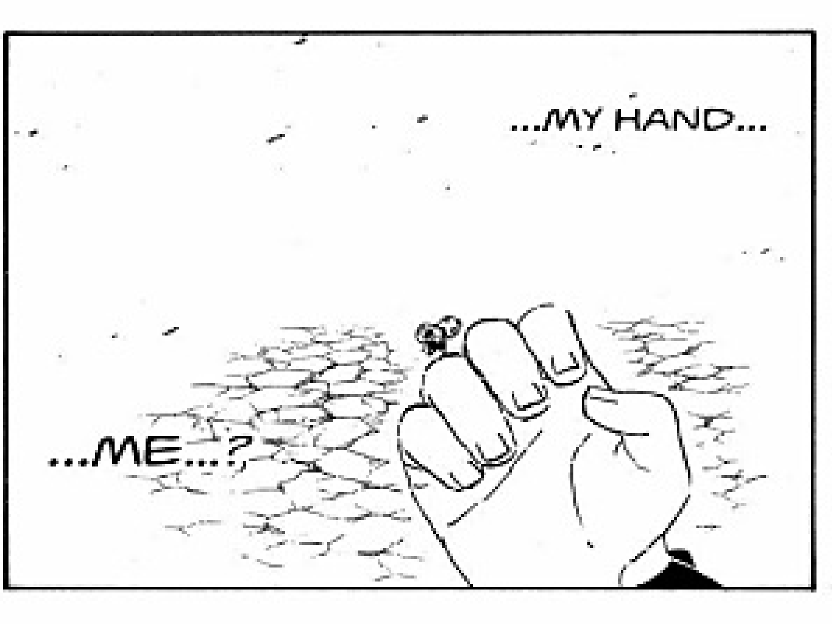
GAARA!


READ
THIS
WAY

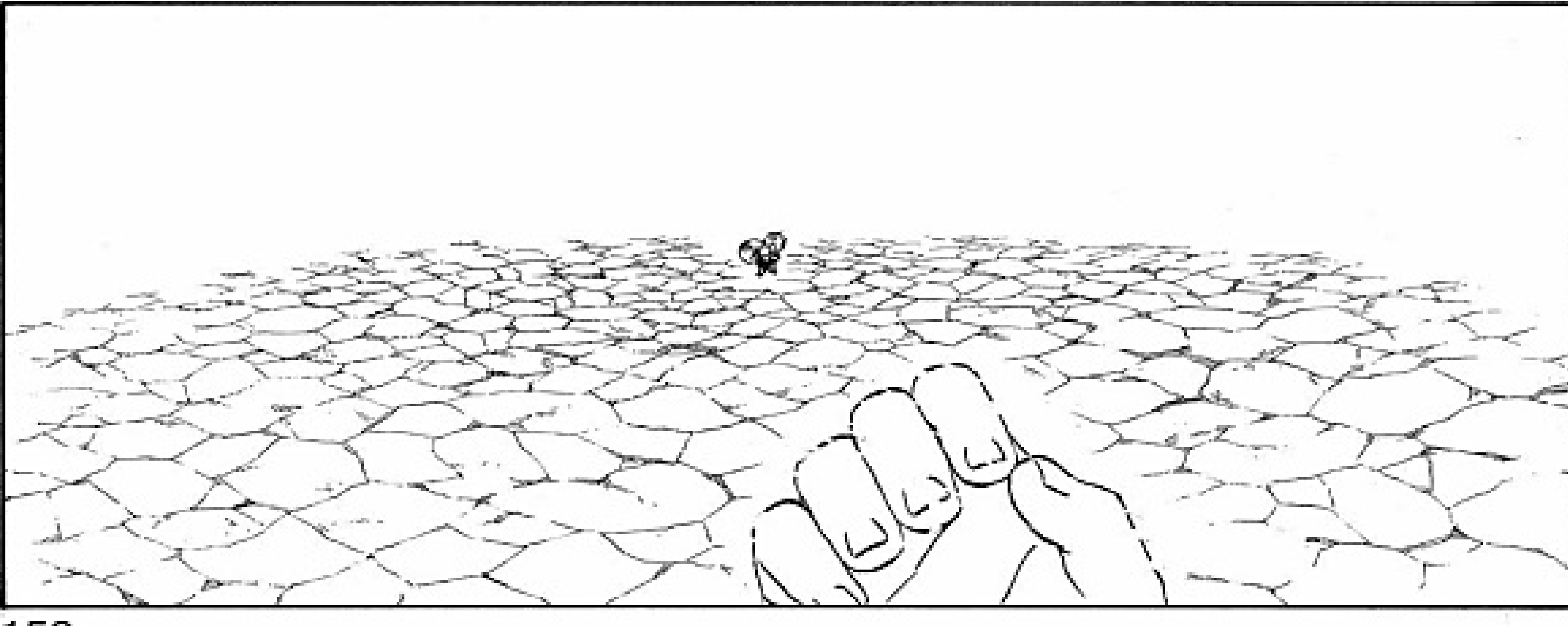

OH...
IT'S MY HAND AGAIN...

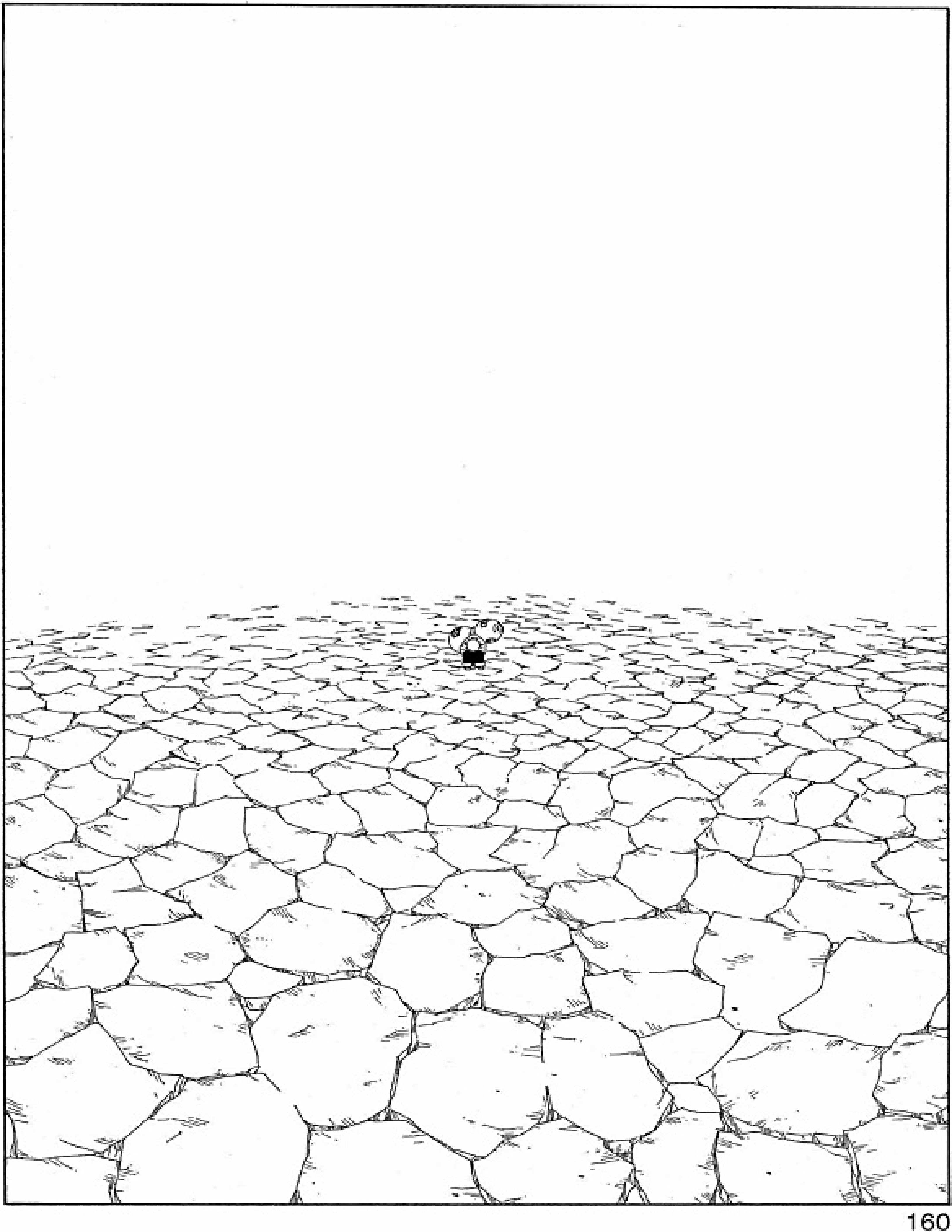

...WHO...?
THIS HAND...

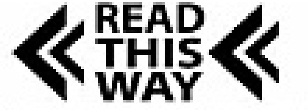

...WHO...?
...WHO...IS HE CALLING?

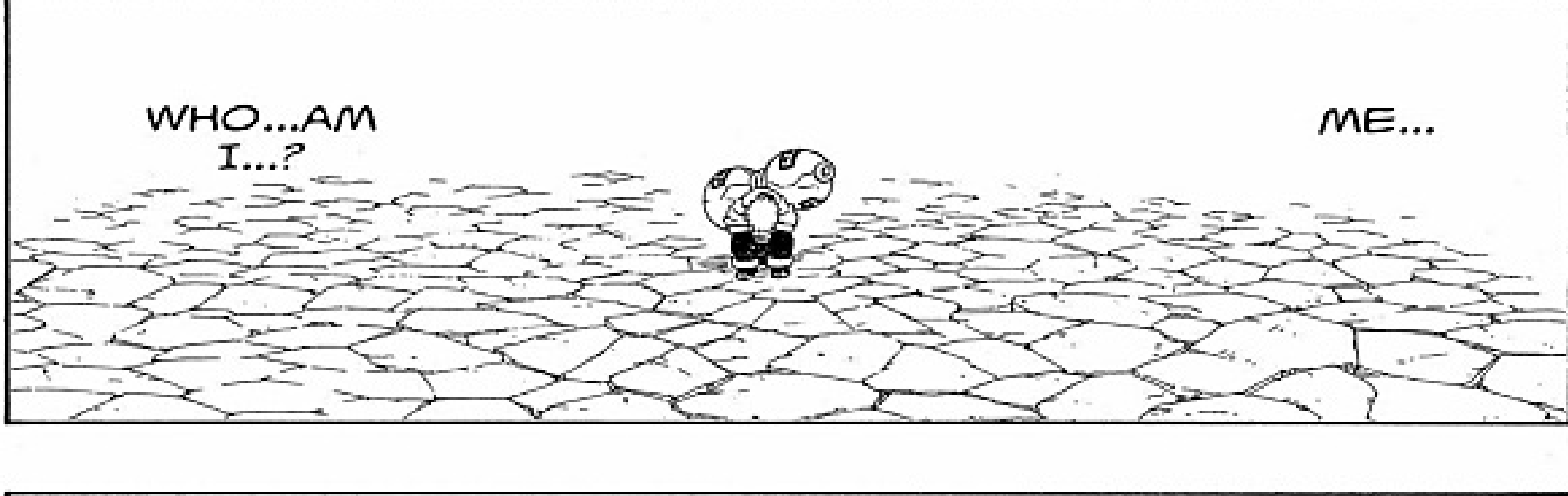

...MY HAND...
...ME...?

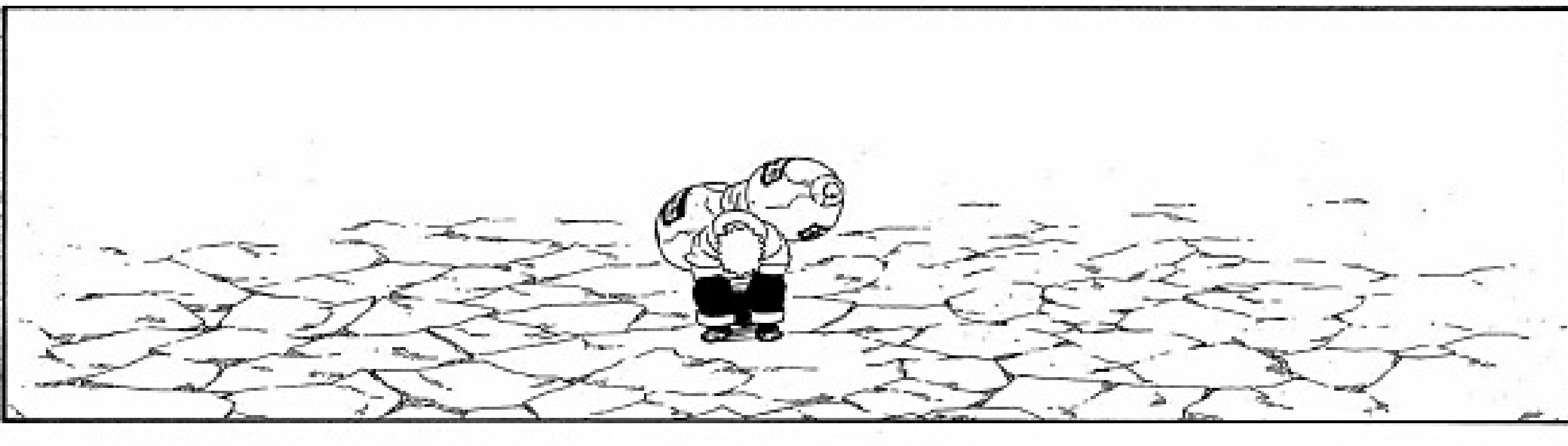


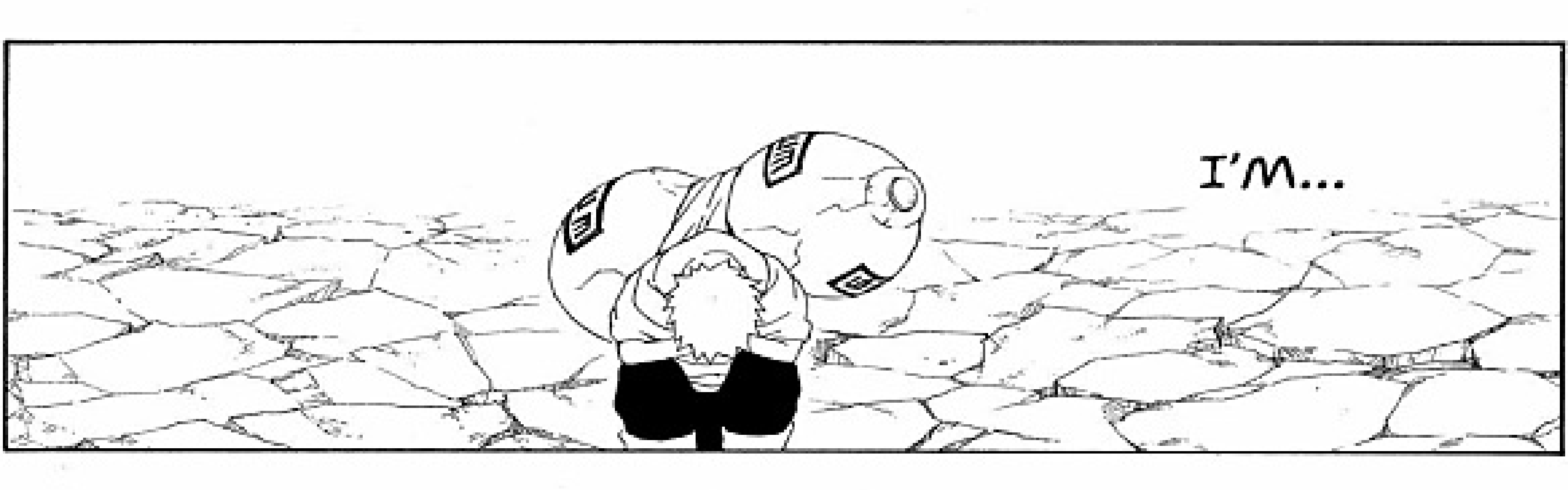


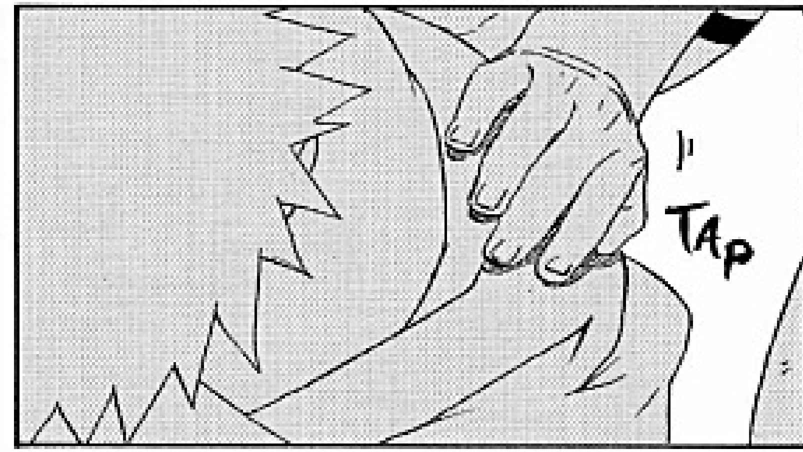



READ
THIS
WAY


ME...
WHO...AM
I...?




I'M...


TAP




...GAARA...



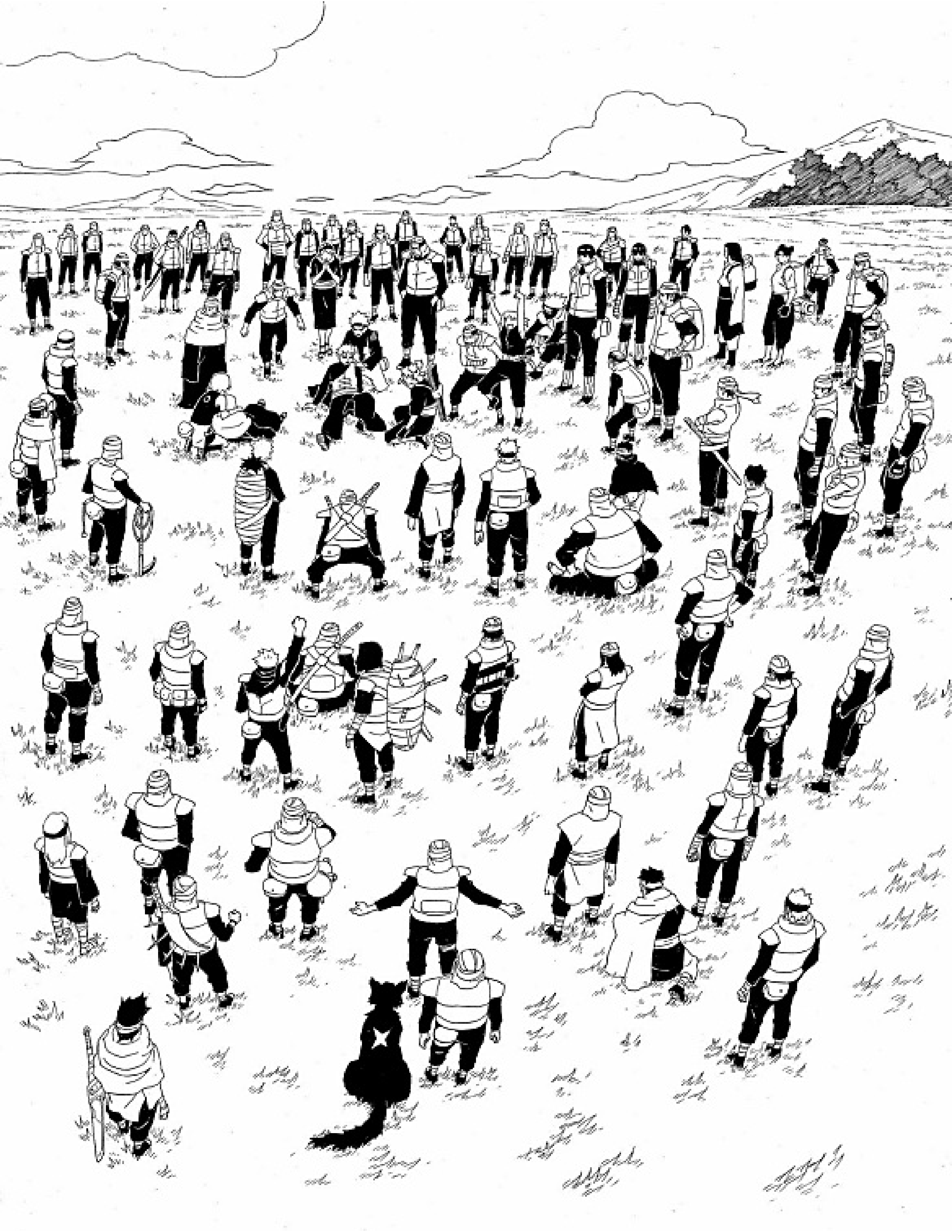
NARUTO...








...WHAT'S THIS...?
WE ALL CAME RUNNING...
...TO YOUR RESCUE...



GRATITUDE FOR FAN MAIL

THANKS, EVERYONE, VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR FAN MAIL. I ALWAYS CREATE MY MANGA IN MY ROOM, NEVER KNOWING HOW READERS FEEL ABOUT IT. SO, BECAUSE FAN MAIL IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MY READERS, I'M REALLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTERS. I READ YOUR LETTERS WHENEVER I HAVE TIME. SOME PEOPLE DOUBT WHETHER I REALLY READ THEM OR NOT, AND WANT ME TO PROVE THAT I DO. BUT DON'T WORRY. I REALLY AM READING THEM. I WISH I COULD WRITE BACK. HOWEVER, I RECEIVE SO MUCH THAT IF I WROTE BACK, I WOULDN'T HAVE TIME LEFT TO DO MY MANGA. THAT'S NOT THE WAY I'D LIKE IT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR NOT REPLYING AND SHOW MY GRATITUDE BY CREATING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING MANGA. AFTER ALL, IF MY MANGA ISN'T INTERESTING, YOU'LL STOP SENDING FAN MAIL (*LAUGH*). FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WROTE TO ME, I'LL KEEP TRYING TO CREATE MANGA THAT YOU'LL ENJOY!

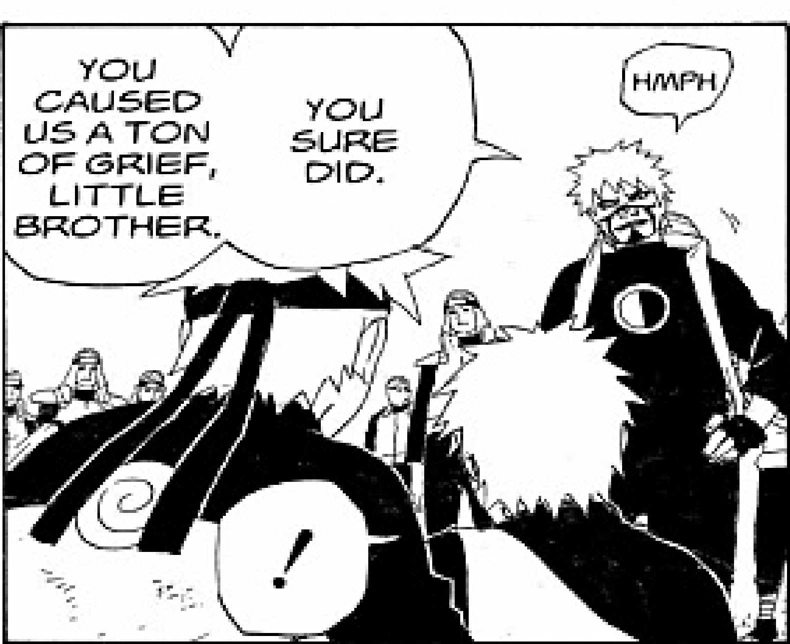
I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT *NARUTO*!

MASASHI KISHIMOTO


Number 280:
Trust!!

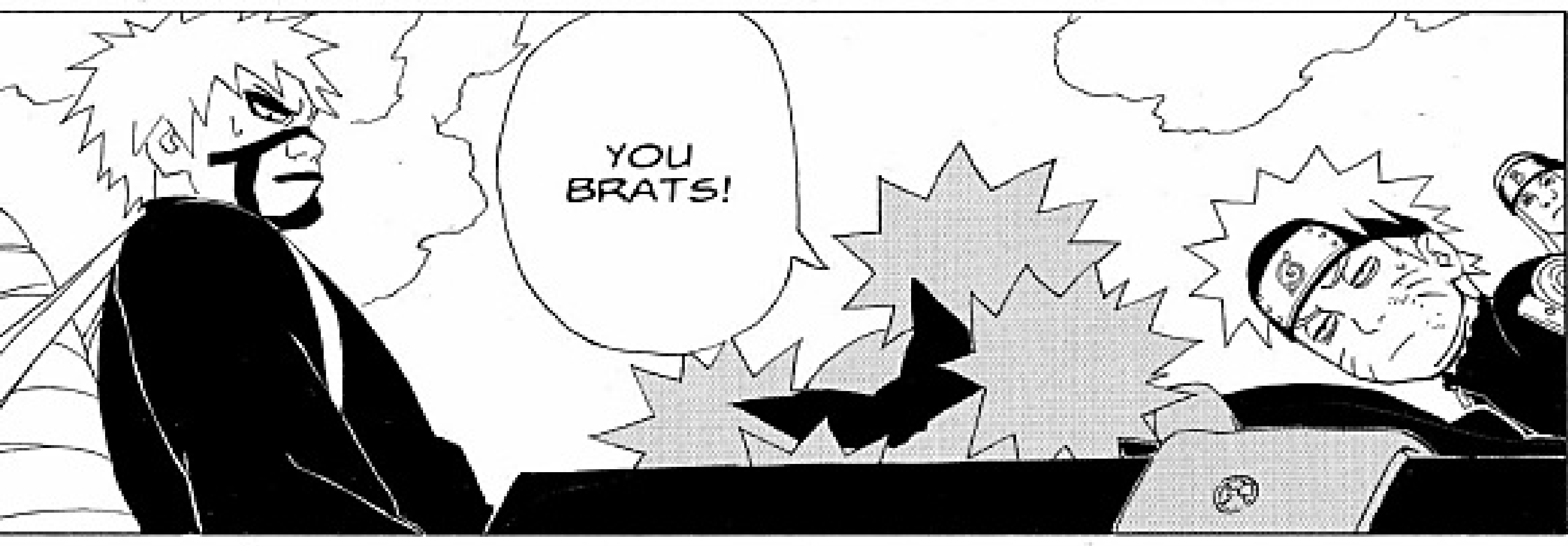

YOU HAD US WORRIED...!


...


HMPH
YOU CAUSED US A TON OF GRIEF, LITTLE BROTHER.
YOU SURE DID.
!


DON'T ACT SO SUPERIOR!
GAARA IS KAZEKAGE.
SHUT *ALL* YOUR MOUTHS!

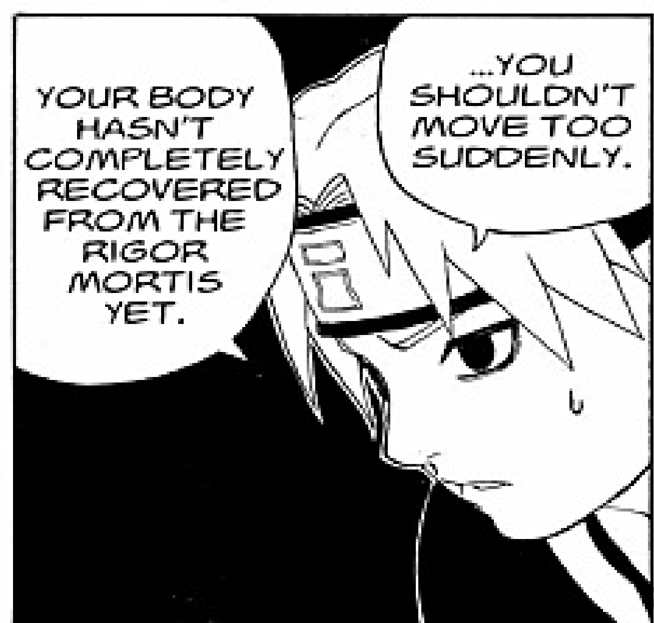

READ
THIS
WAY


YOU BRATS!


...GAARA... HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
GASP


PAT


UGH...
UHN


...YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE TOO SUDDENLY.
YOUR BODY HASN'T COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM THE RIGOR MORTIS YET.

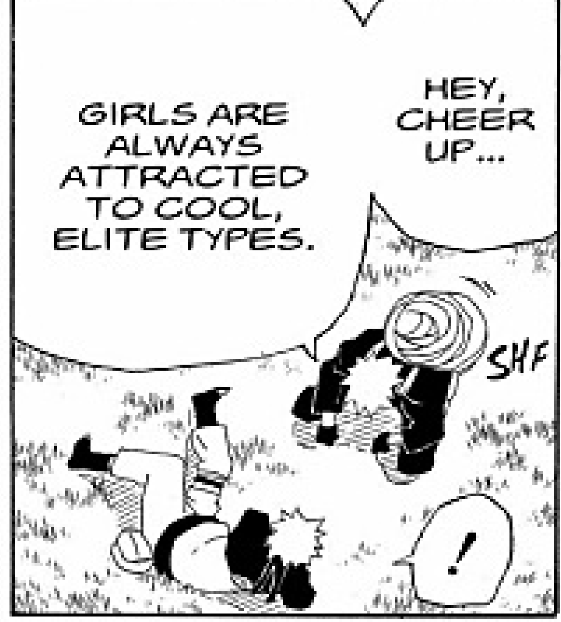

SOB... SOB... WHAT A RELIEF...
I THOUGHT LORD KAZEKAGE WAS REALLY GONE...


LORD GAARA WOULDN'T DIE SO EASILY!!
THAP
OUCH!

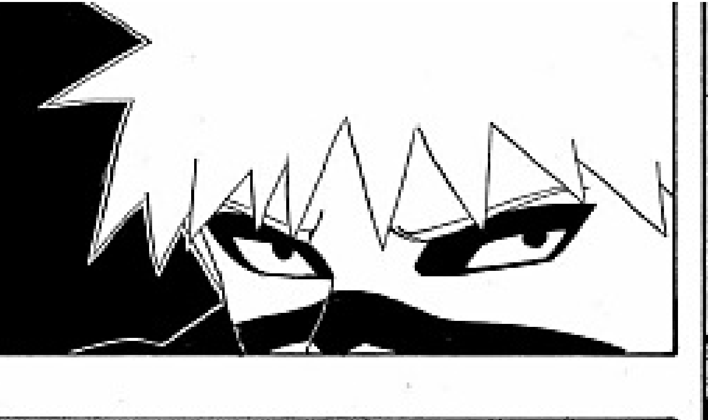

LORD GAARA IS A SILENT, COOL, STRONG AND HANDSOME ELITE WARRIOR...
YES, YES. AND HE'S CUTE TOO, BUT HE'S KAZEKAGE...

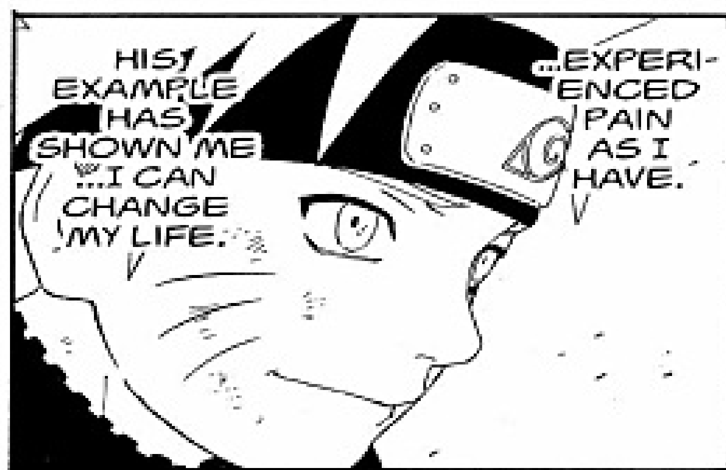

I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM YOUR ENEMIES NEXT TIME!
NO, I WILL!
BUMP
ZOOM


ZOOP
...COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M STILL A GENIN...


HEY, CHEER UP...
GIRLS ARE ALWAYS ATTRACTED TO COOL, ELITE TYPES.
SHF
!


I THINK... SHIKAMARU SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TOO...
HMM...
FUP



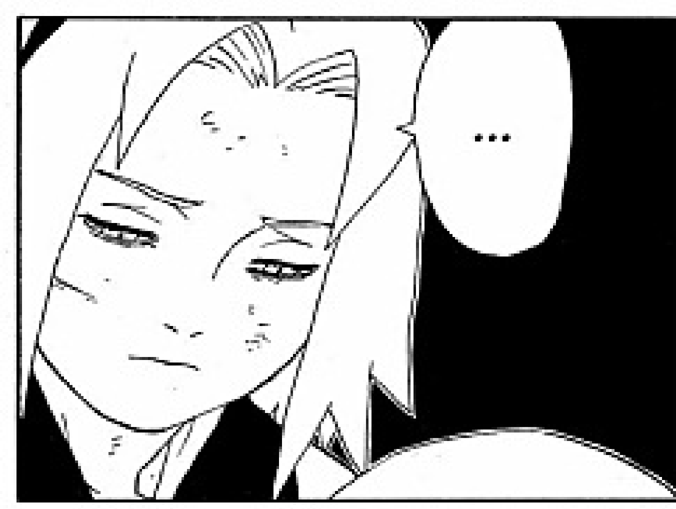

HE'S...

...EXPERIENCED PAIN AS I HAVE.
HIS EXAMPLE HAS SHOWN ME ...I CAN CHANGE MY LIFE.

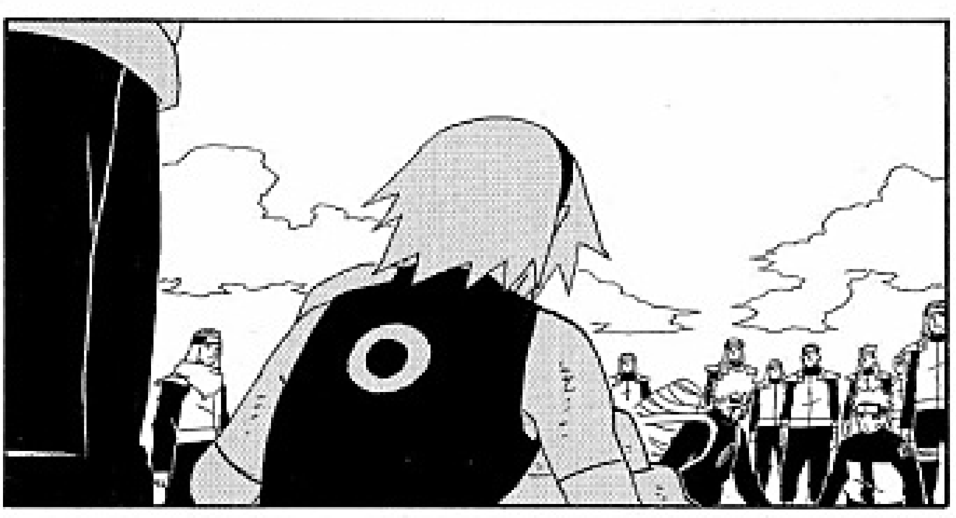
THANKS... NARUTO.
!

...

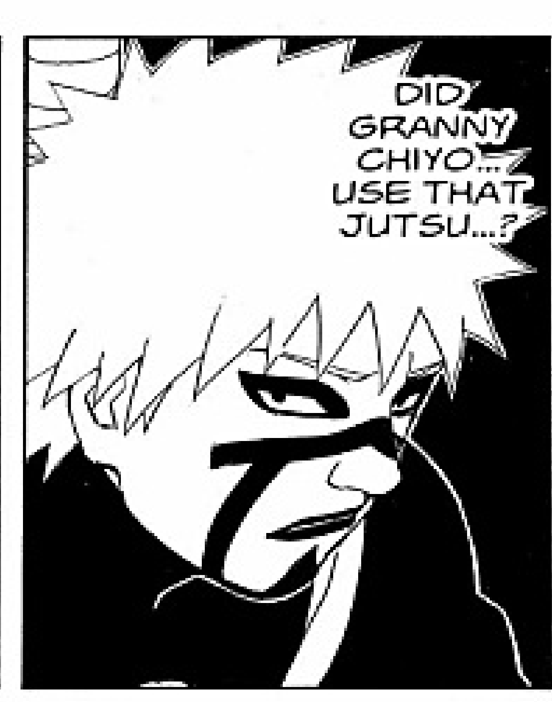
YOU SHOULD THANK GRANNY, NOT ME.
SHE SAVED HIM WITH AN AWESOME MEDICAL NINJUTSU...



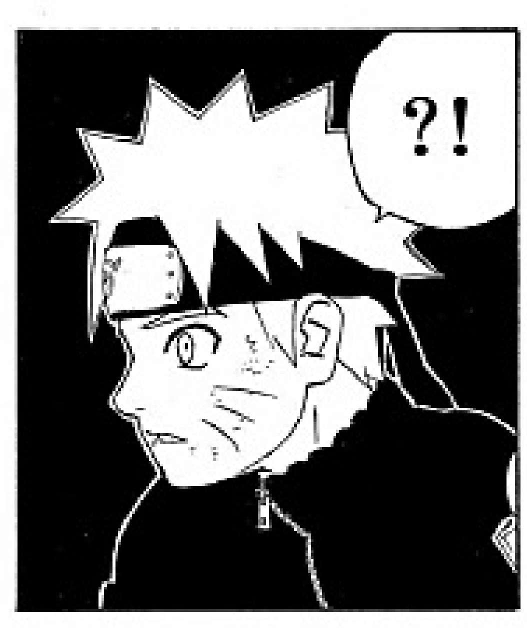



READ
THIS
WAY


DID GRANNY CHIYO... USE THAT JUTSU...?


SHE WAS TIRED AND FELL ASLEEP...
BUT SHE'LL BE FINE WHEN SHE GETS HOME...


NO...


?!


...


...WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO...?


...

GRANNY CHIYO IS DEAD.
IT WASN'T MEDICAL NINJUTSU. IT WAS A TRANSFER-ENCE TECHNIQUE...

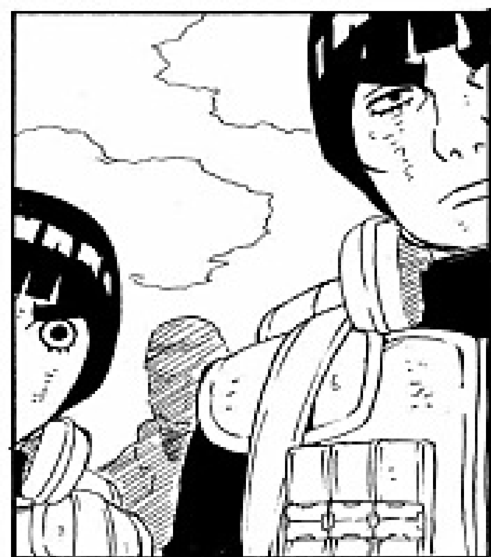





READ
THIS
WAY


...!


...
...

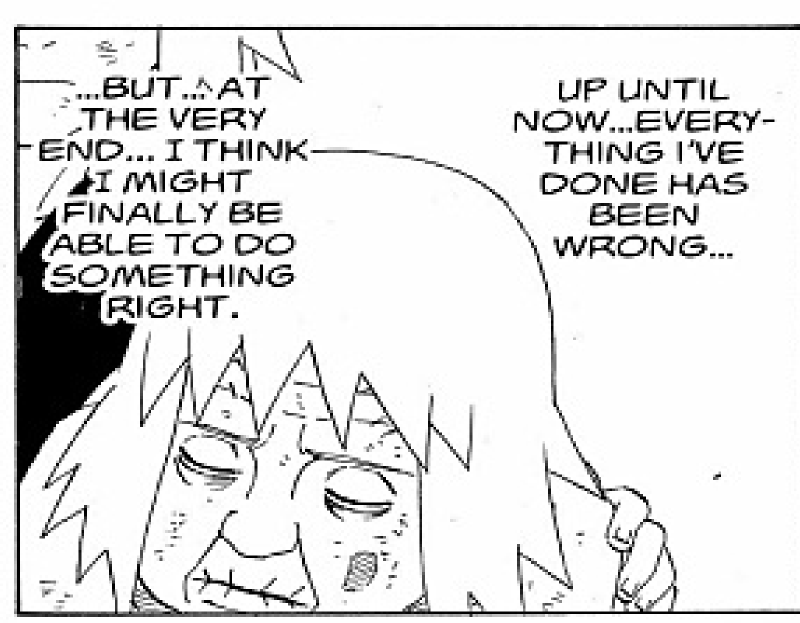


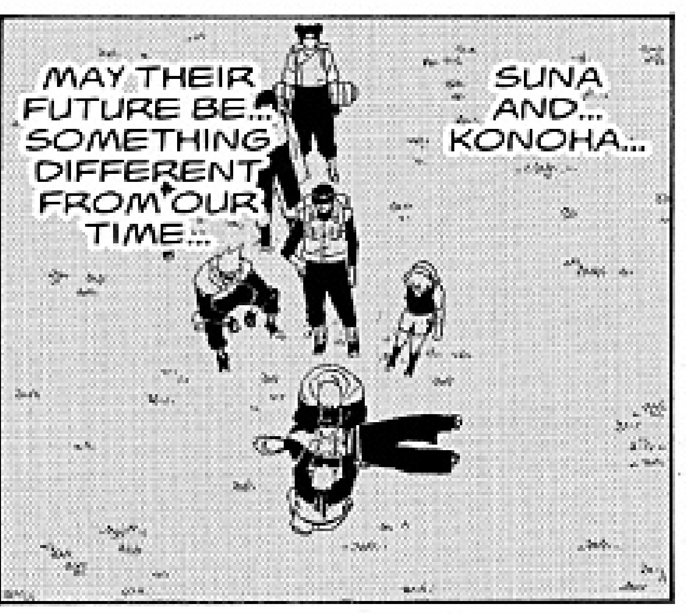

AT ONE TIME, THE SAND'S PUPPET-MASTER CORPS...
...WAS INVOLVED IN THE SECRET DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNIQUE THAT WOULD BREATHE ACTUAL LIFE INTO PUPPETS...
...GRANNY CHIYO LED THAT PROJECT.


...THEY MANAGED TO DEVISE A THEORY FOR THE TECHNIQUE, BUT...
...MIDWAY THROUGH... BECAUSE THE RISK WAS SO HIGH...
BEFORE A HUMAN EXPERIMENT WAS EVEN CONDUCTED, THE TECH-NIQUE WAS BANNED...
...AND SEALED.


...

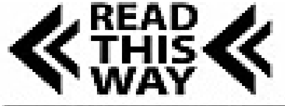
IN THIS SHINOBI WORLD CREATED BY FRIVOLOUS OLD PEOPLE... I'M GLAD NEW SOULS LIKE YOU HAVE COME ALONG...



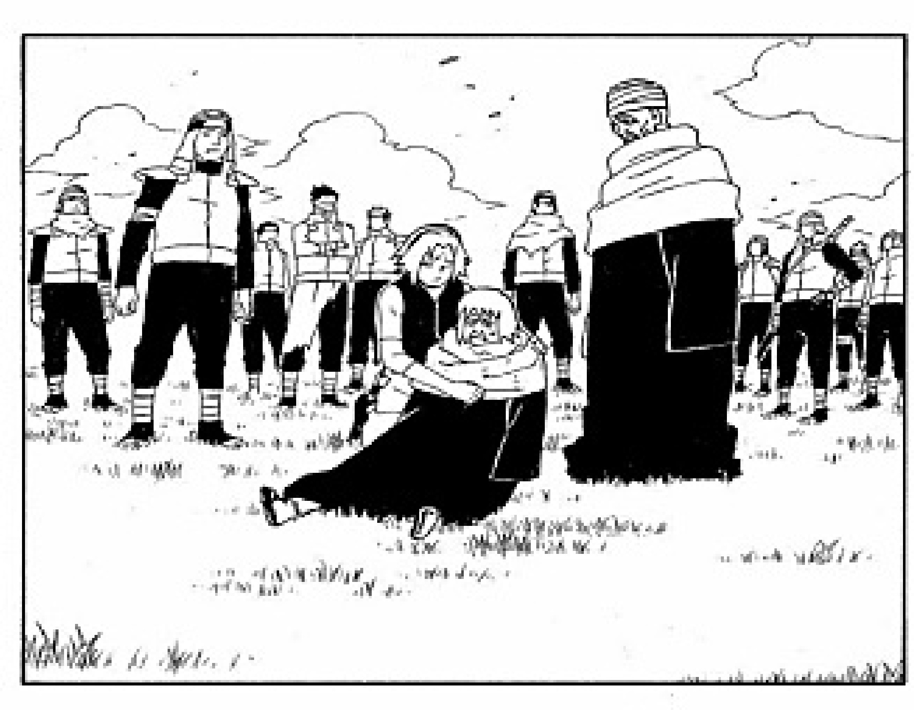


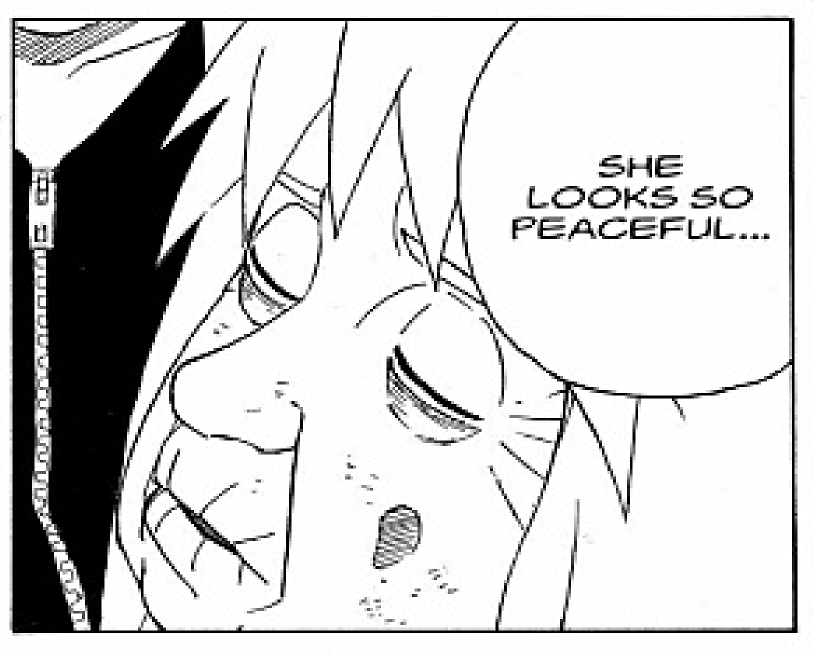


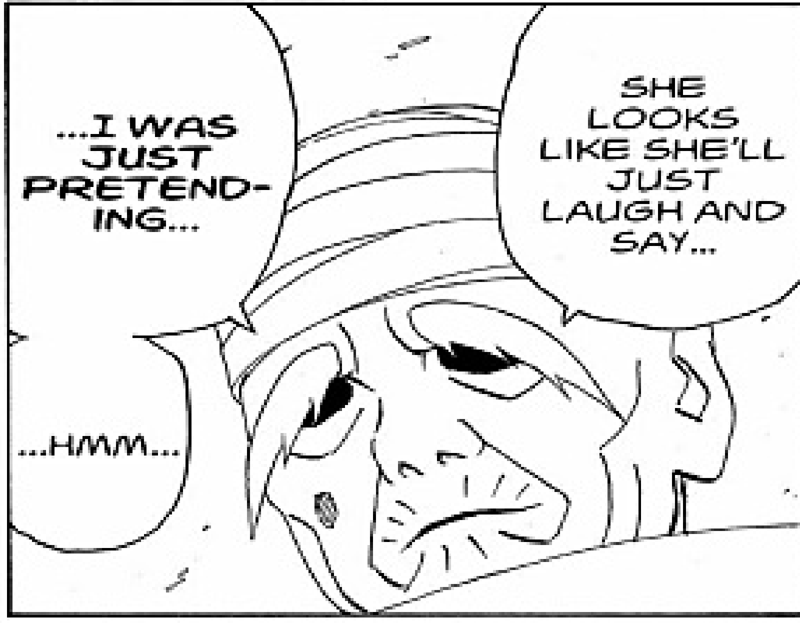


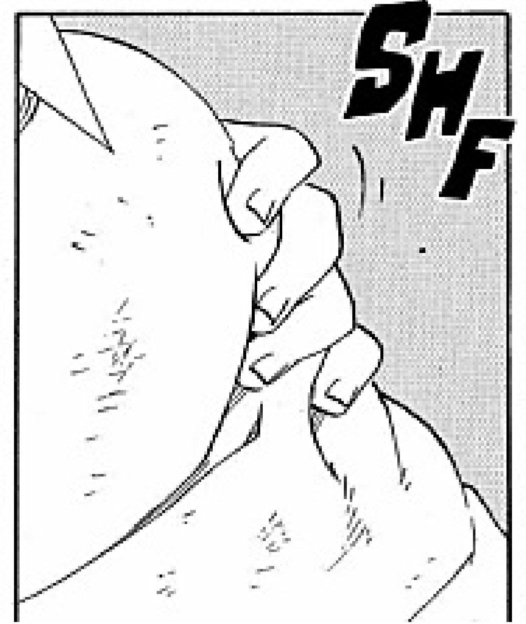

READ
THIS
WAY


GRANNY CHIYO!...

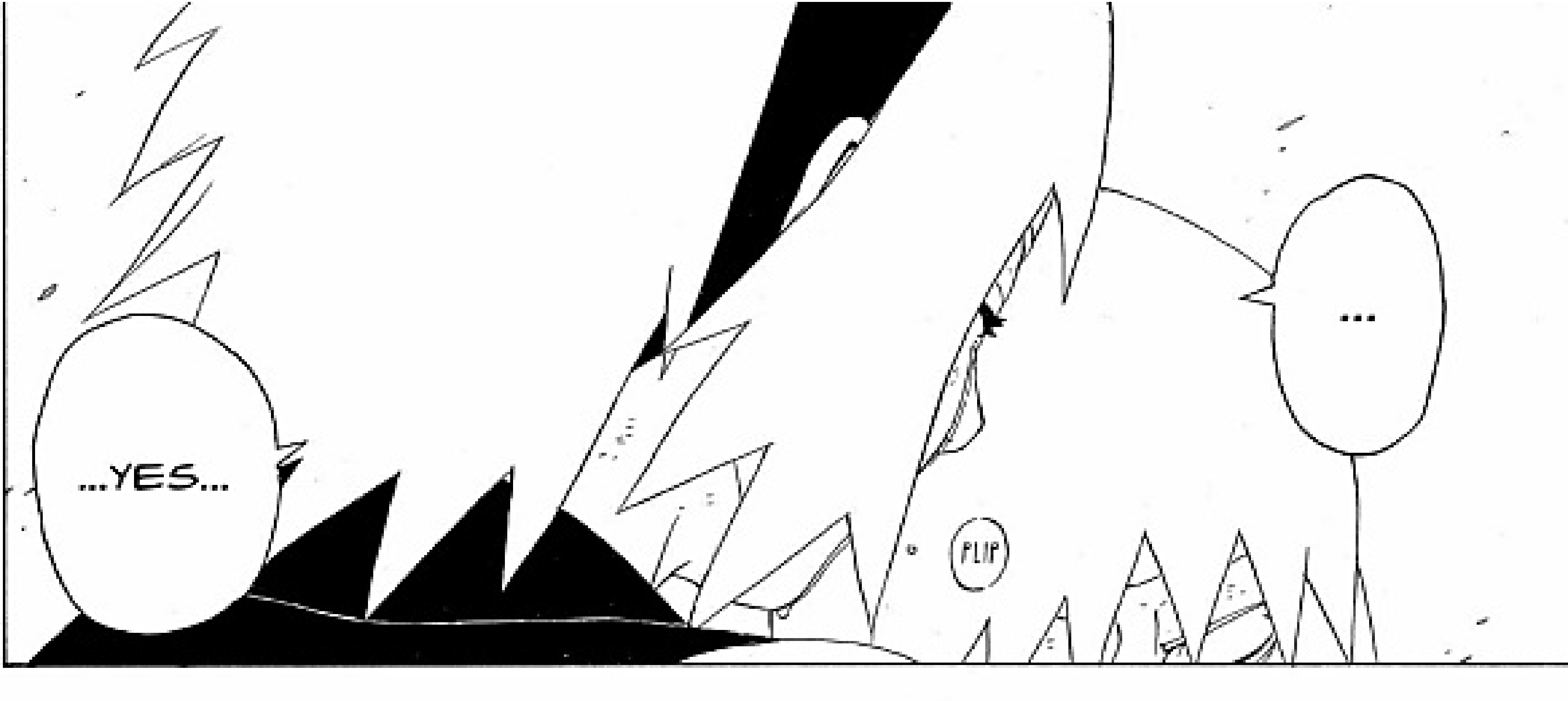



SHE LOOKS SO PEACEFUL...

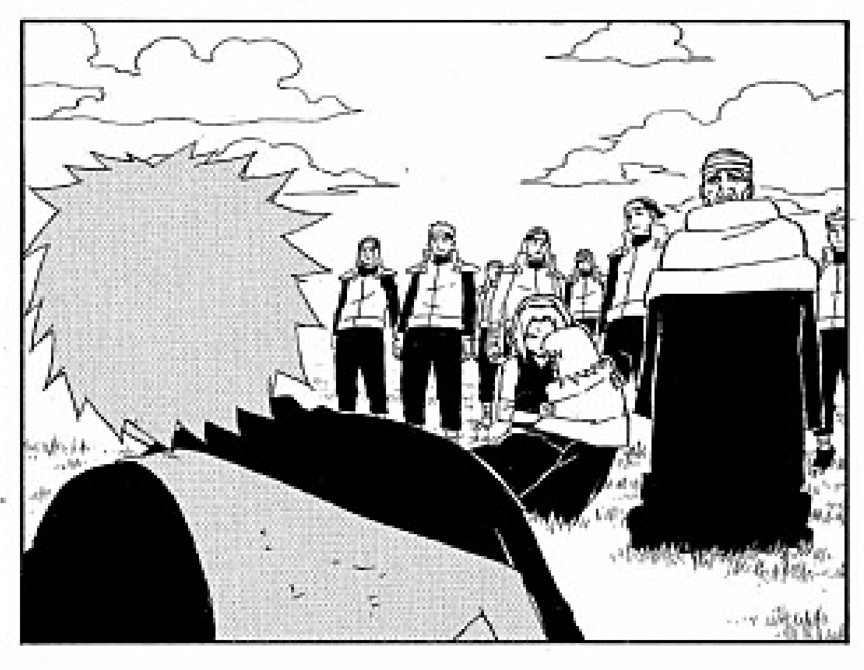

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'LL JUST LAUGH AND SAY...
...I WAS JUST PRETEND-ING...
...HMM...

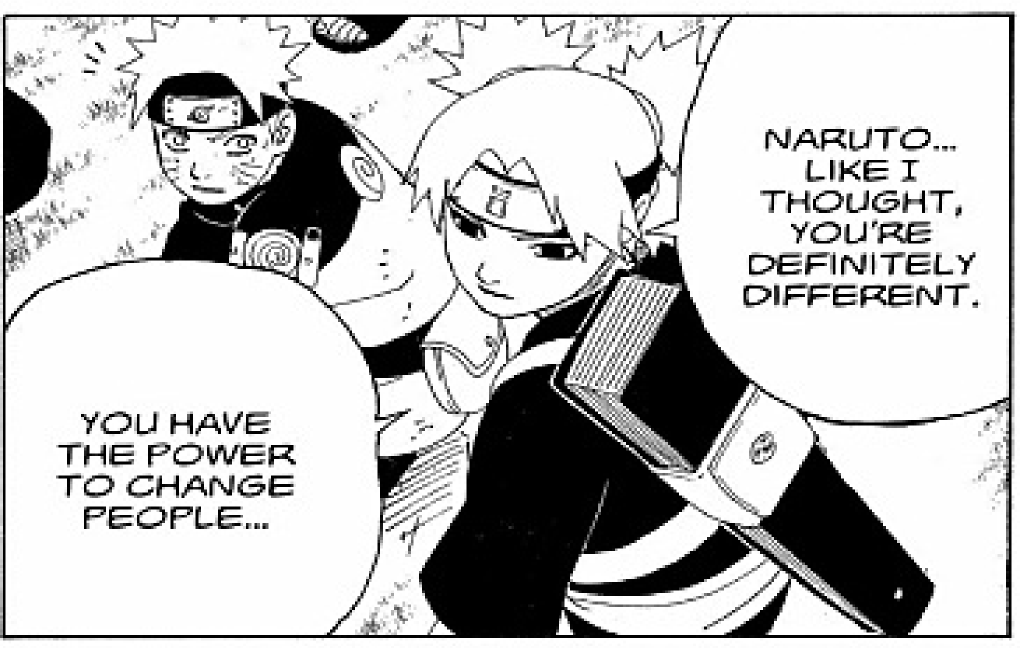

SHF




...
...YES...
PLIP

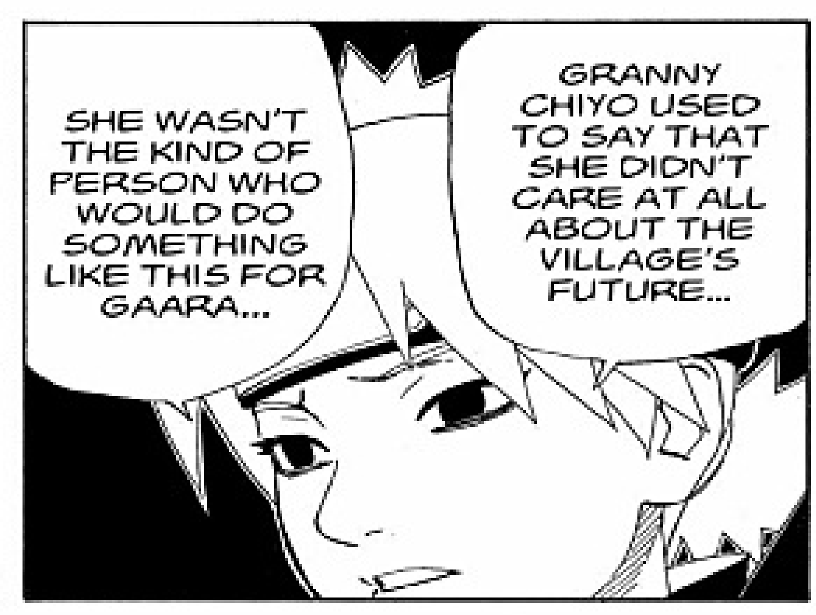

愛




NARUTO... LIKE I THOUGHT, YOU'RE DEFINITELY DIFFERENT.
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE PEOPLE...


...









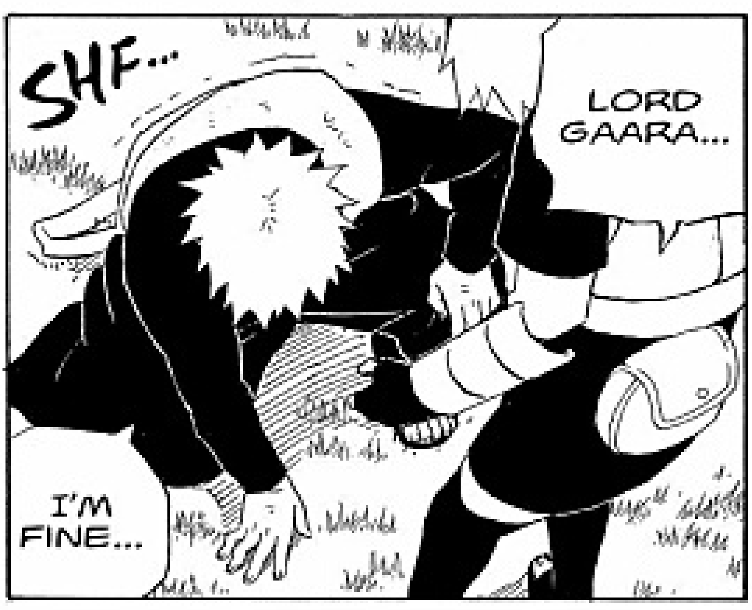
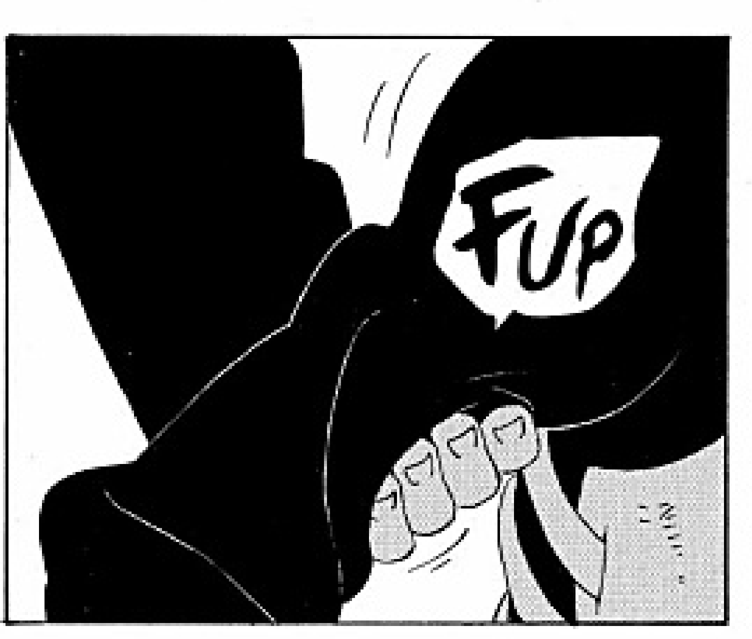
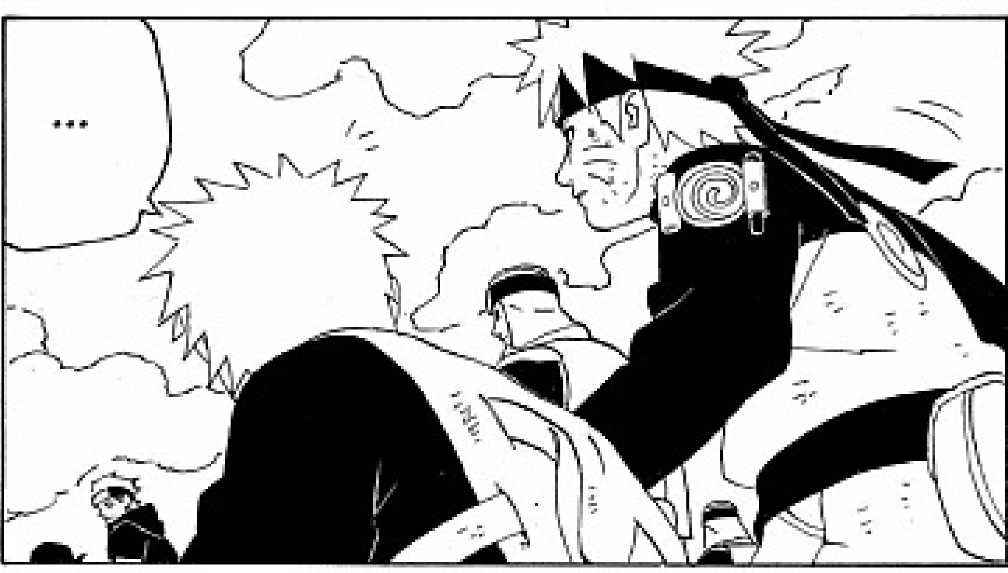
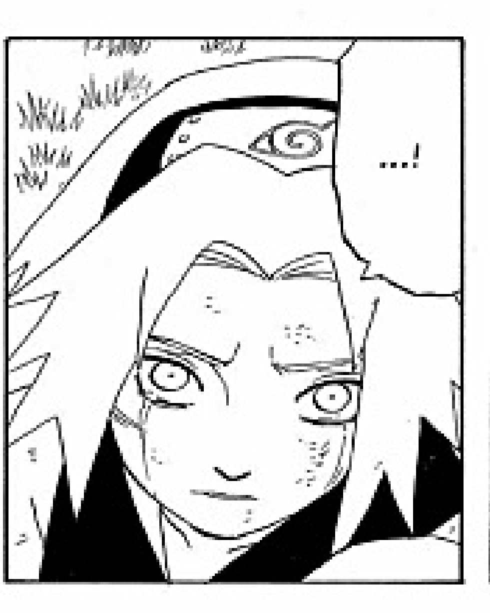




YEAH...

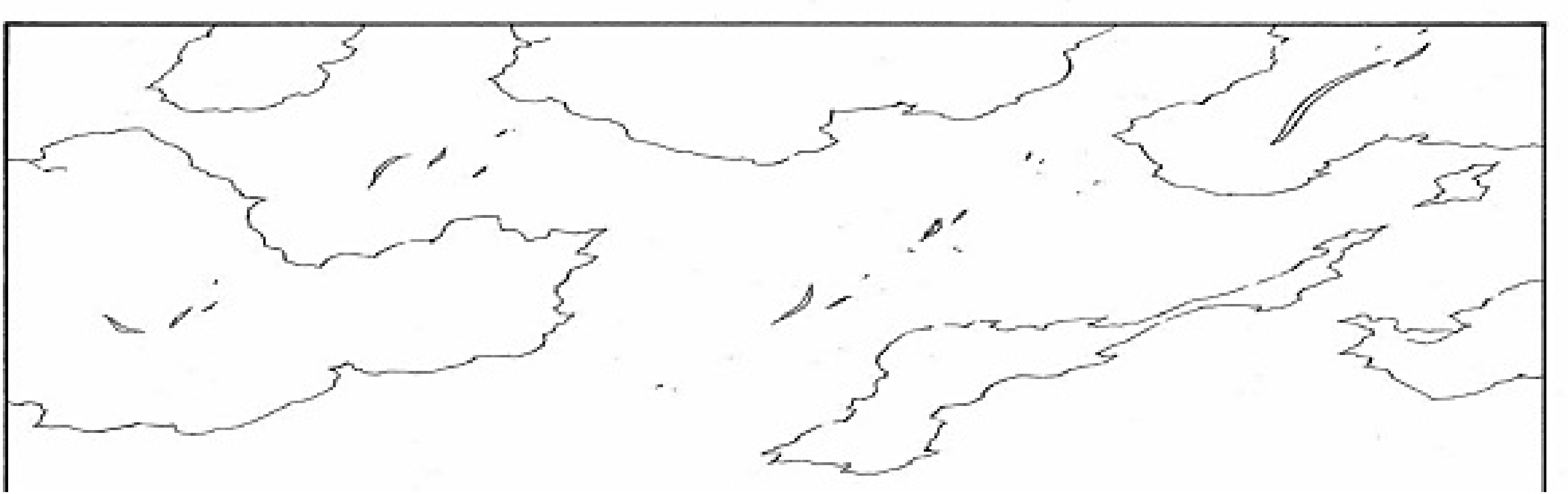
NOW I GET WHAT GRANNY WISHED FOR!




SHF...
LORD GAARA...
I'M FINE...

FUP

...

...!




...EVERY-ONE.
PRAY FOR GRANNY CHIYO.

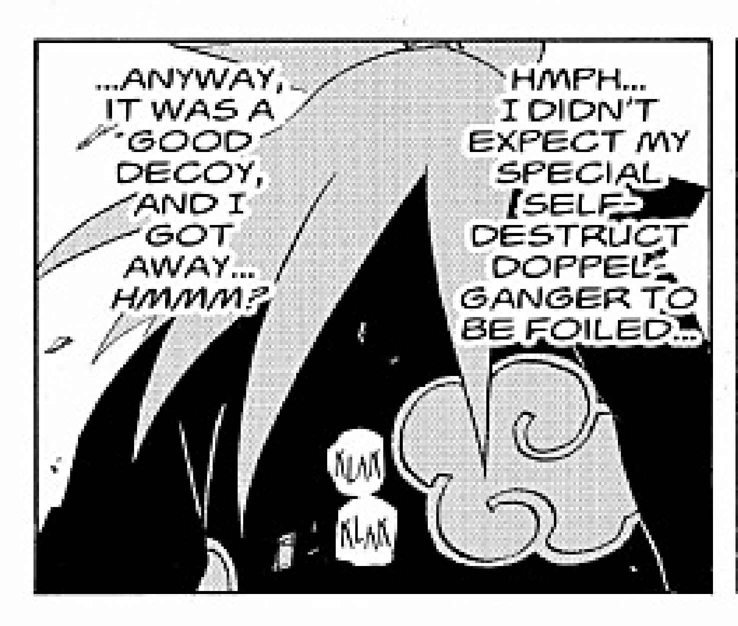


CRACK

CRACK CRACK

BAM

PHEW!



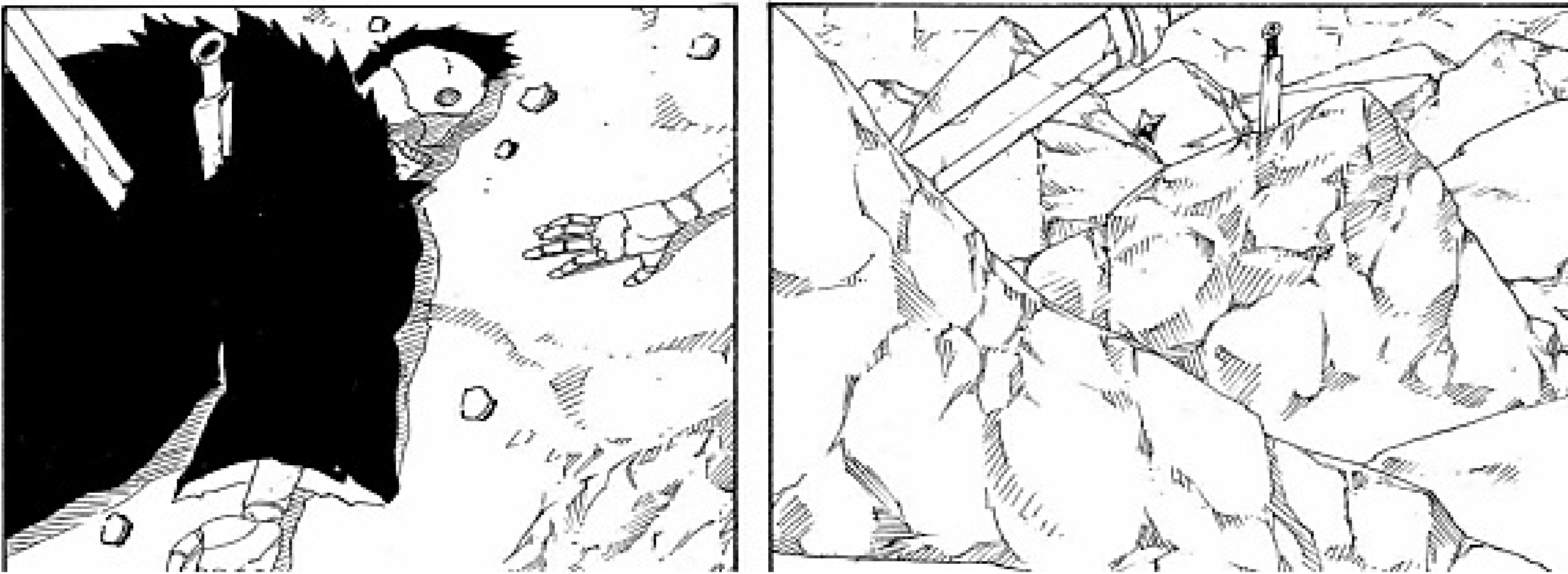


...

HMMM ...

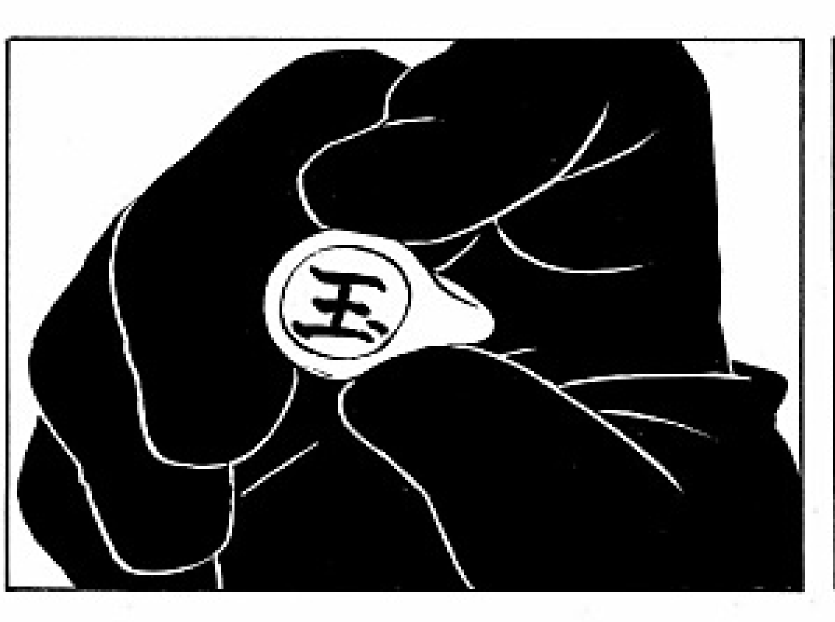
I ONLY LOST MY ARM FROM THE ELBOW...

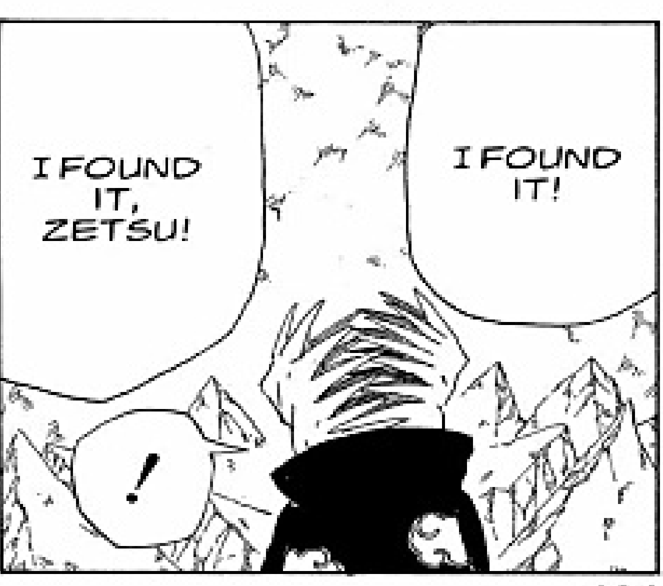
I HAVE TO FIND MY RIGHT HAND AND THE RING I DROPPED...




SO THIS IS SASORI'S REAL BODY.






I FOUND IT!
I FOUND IT, ZETSU!
!


WILL THIS BE ENOUGH FOR ME TO JOIN THE AKATSUKI...?
FLIP
THERE'S NOW AN OPENING FOR ONE...
FOOL... IT'S NOT THAT EASY...
WHY NOT...? LET HIM JOIN...
TOBI'S A GOOD BOY...
WHOOPS...
SHUP
TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL.32!